

INC members leave Edsa; so does Net 25

STORY
BELOW,
COLUMN 1

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SME workers: Modern slaves

BY RAMON T. JIMENEZ

(First of two parts)

EMIL, age 18, works as a gas station attendant. He is paid P130 for working eight hours, but sometimes when asked to work for two or more hours, he is not paid any overtime premium. If he refuses, many boys from the nearest squatter

SME/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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★★

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Show of force set at Mendiola today

BY C. AVENDAÑO, N. BORDADORA,
J. CANUDAY AND A. MELLEJOR

LABOR Day today marks the coming together again of workers, big business, government and cause-oriented groups, this time to protect the gains of the People Power II uprising last January.

SHOW/A18

WHY POWER

GRAB FAILED

Moderates Angara, Puno, Zamora, JV Ejercito prevail over hot heads

BY AMANDO DORONILA,
ROCKY NAZARENO
AND DONA PAZZIBUGAN

A PLAN to storm Malacañang with a human wave of Edsa demonstrators in an attempt to grab power was aborted on Sunday evening following a "split" of opposition leaders over the attack, according to a confidential report to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The report cited "two independent sources from the Erap loyalists movement (who) revealed significant information on their recent plan of action."

A group identified with former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno, and J.V. Ejercito, a son of deposed President Joseph Estrada by Guia Gomez, opposed the plan to storm the Palace, according to senior intelligence sources.

They clashed with the group composed of reelectionist Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gregorio Honasan, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda and former Philip-

WHY/A6

Erap blames Miriam for march idea

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND CHRISTINE HERRERA

BACOLOD CITY—Joseph Estrada yesterday said it was not he but Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who had warned President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down or his loyalists would storm Malacañang.

Reached by the INQUIRER by cellular phone at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), where he is being held for a series of tests, Estrada categorically said: "That was Miriam."

ERAP/A19

BY NIGHTFALL Monday, the vigil in Mendiola starts with a Mass, a prelude to the Labor Day, anti-Estrada rally today to be mounted by the Edsa II forces.

JOAN BONDOR

INC pulls out of Edsa; Net 25 has last hurrah

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA
AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

NET 25 returns to its well-deserved obscurity.

After a closed-door meeting yesterday with the emissaries of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Iglesia Ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño Manalo ordered a stop to the round-the-clock, live coverage of the INC-owned dZEC and Net 25 of what had been billed as "Edsa III."

Manalo, perceived to be a longtime ally of ex-President Joseph Estrada, also ordered the pullout of his flock from the Edsa Shrine, according to an INC official who requested ano-

nymity. The supporters of deposed President Estrada had assembled since April 25 to demand the resignation of Ms Macapagal and the reinstatement of her predecessor.

El Shaddai, the other religious group allegedly supportive of the deposed President, reiterated that "it has not and will not give instructions for its members to attend the Edsa rally," according to a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

It also declared that "Brother Mike (Velarde, El Shaddai head) chooses not to take any stand in order for him to reach out to both sides."

The meeting with the INC hierarchy held at

INC/A7

NBI eyes sedition charges

Miriam, JPE, Gringo, Ping facing probe

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is closely studying the inflammatory speeches made by four senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa preparatory to the possible filing of sedition charges against them.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said on radio yesterday that reelectionist Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson—all PnM candidates—were being put under surveillance and their remarks at the loyalist rallies at Edsa studied.

The candidates as well as other allies of Joseph Estrada were heard inciting the protesters at Edsa to storm Camp Crame, where the ex-president was briefly held, and Malacañang in order to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

NBI/A6



SLEEPLESS at the Palace, the President's husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo, is still up at 5 a.m. Monday after a long day's night.



AT THE END of the day, only heaps of garbage remain as INC members leave Edsa after five days of protesting the arrest of ex-President Estrada.

AFP, PNP keep faith with gov't

BY CARLITO PABLO,
CHRISTINE HERRERA
AND TJ BURGONIO

UNDER intense pressure from the Estrada camp to support its cause, the military and police kept faith with the government that they helped install in January, and remained loyal to the chain of command.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines is not for sale," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen.

Diomedio Villanueva asserted yesterday amid persistent reports that the anti-Macapagal forces were offering huge bribes to military officers and soldiers to turn against the government.

In an apparent effort to underscore that the military is no mercenary army, the AFP dubbed its operational plan to protect the government as "Oplan Righteous Cause."

AFP, PNP/A6

AFP ready to crush Erap coup

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND DAVE VERIDIANO

"CRUSH the march."

That was the order reportedly issued by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces top brass to their men in the middle of the night yesterday as the number of Edsa protesters reached an estimated 1.5 million.

The military will stop supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada from marching on Malacañang, declared Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Whatever it takes to protect this government, we are going to do it," Villanueva yesterday said when asked about the AFP's response to a plan by Estrada supporters to troop to the Palace.

Villanueva made the pledge as the AFP augmented its combat troops and hardware in Metro

AFP/A7



THE MORNING after the night before, the most critical in the 100 days of President Macapagal's administration.



Dong extols virtue of bad smell

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

"MABUHAY ang mababaho! Mabuhay ang mababantor (Long live the smelly! Long live the stinky!)!"

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DONG/A7

Second FRONT PAGE



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OSLO, Norway—Philippine government representatives and communist rebels expressed determination in trying to solve a 32-year armed conflict as they started on the tough issues of social and economic reforms.

The negotiators moved on to the key issues on Sunday after spending the first two days of their talks setting a framework for talks, asking for good faith measures and arguing over a human rights pact reached before the last round of talks collapsed in 1999.

"I think both sides are confident and de-

termined to take on these tough issues," said Luis Jalandoni, the Netherlands-based leader of the National Democratic Front rebel group as that topic was raised. "We still face a lot of difficult issues because there are wide-ranging and deep-going differences on the two sides."

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III also said they face difficult issues but that progress "is definitely being made."

Disagreements

He said the disagreements were mainly over how to jointly monitor the 1998 agreement on protecting human rights and respecting international humanitarian law, which has not yet been implemented.

"It is an old issue," Bello said, adding that both sides "have shown a determination to continue."

Both sides said they were confident about reaching an agreement, if not now then in the next round of talks, possibly in late May in Oslo. Smaller working groups also were to meet in the Philippines in the meantime.

The peace process is expected to continue in three phases, with six months each for social

and economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms and finally a permanent end to hostilities in about 18 months.

No breakthrough

No breakthrough was expected at the meeting of about 15 government representatives and some 30 rebels in Holmenkollen Park Hotel overlooking the Norwegian capital. The meeting is supposed to end Monday, but the sides did not rule out using more time if needed.

The talks coincided with protests in the impoverished Asian nation over the arrest on corruption charges of ousted President Joseph Estrada and continued violence between communist rebels and the government.

The 32-year rebellion by rebels fighting for a Marxist state has killed and displaced thousands of people and hindered economic development in the impoverished Philippines, a country of 79 million people.

The rebels also have demanded several concessions from the government as a show of good faith, including the speedy release of political prisoners, land reforms, wages increases and the return of displaced people to their homes. **AP**

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EFFECTIVE POLLWATCHING ON VIDEO

By Atty. Dante R. Marcelo

TO PRESERVE the sanctity of the ballot, the teachers, pollwatchers and the public including the COMELEC Citizens Arm, NAMFREL and PPCRV, should be educated to prevent election fraud. Atty. Dante R. Marcelo, an election lawyer, consultant and author of the production of a film, "BANTAY BOTO," a dramatization of his handbook entitled EFFECTIVE POLLWATCHING ON THE MAY 14, 2001 National and Local Elections, with the following contents:

Iba't ibang Uri ng Pandaraya, Kasama ang "DAGDAG-BAWAS" Balloting, Counting and Appreciation of Ballots, Preparation of Election Returns

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CBCP hails Gloria's 1st 100 days

BY N. BORDADORA

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the

Philippines yesterday congratulated President Macapagal-Arroyo on her first 100 days as President, saying she has been successful in restoring respect to the Presidency in particular and to the country in general.

The National Secretariat for Social Action Justice and Peace, the social action arm of the influential bishops' organization, said President Arroyo could be assured of its continued support despite the huge demonstration of pro-Estrada forces at the Edsa Shrine.

"In such a short span of time, President Arroyo has made the right moves in restoring respect not just to the presidency as an institution but to also to the nation as a whole," said the CBCP-NASSA in a statement yesterday.

"Her actions convey her government's sincerity in pursuing genuine governance. Her performance is a remarkable departure from the previous 'posture presidency,' that busied itself in garnering pogi points and not in enacting reforms," the statement read.

The CBCP-NASSA said the crowd at Edsa is only made up of pro-Estrada businessmen who lost their lucrative yet exploitative businesses, pro-Estrada senatorial candidates who stand to lose in the coming elections, and the "paid poor and adoring fans."

"President Arroyo's first 100 days could not have come under more challenging circumstances. The riotous pro-Estrada crowd occupying the Edsa Shrine today is threatening to unsettle President Arroyo and reinstate a corrupt has-been," said the CBCP-NASSA.

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Elections will go on, Comelec vows

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE MAY 14 elections will push through despite recent political events that appeared to threaten the holding of the polls as scheduled.

This was the assertion by the Commission on Elections yesterday after coup rumors and threats by supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada to lay siege on Malacañang had people wondering if the polls would still be held.

"The May 14 polls will push through as scheduled," said Comelec executive director Mamasapuno Agum, following an en banc meeting of the commission to resolve pending issues.

Agum said the pro-Estrada protests and threats of destabilization were not even discussed at the meeting.

Agum said the protests were not widespread and would not affect the holding of elections throughout the country.

He said that with only 14 days to go, the Comelec would be working overtime to resolve key issues left

hanging by the bickering among its commissioners.

Comelec officials are expected to hold en banc sessions daily, even on holidays, to decide pending matters such as disqualification cases and petitions filed against some party-list groups.

Yesterday's session was attended by Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioners Rex Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr., Rufino Javier and Luzviminda Tancanco.

The officials will meet again at 2:30 p.m. today, Labor Day. Comelec employees were directed to render overtime work even if today is a holiday so as not to derail preparations for the coming polls.

"We will have no holiday because the resolutions have to come out this week," said Agum, who talked as he signed a pile of vouchers.

Even Borra, the most quoted Comelec official in the media, refused to grant interviews as his staff said he was signing piles of documents.

Agum said one of the matters tackled in the en banc session was the mobilization of Armed Forces reservists for poll duty in "hotspots" and other areas where teachers refuse to go because of the peace and order situation.

Borra had earlier said the en banc sessions would also decide which six political parties would be entitled to copies of election returns and to have poll watchers, and whether to place "hotspots" under Comelec control.

One of the issues is the request by reelectionist Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez and mayoralty candidate Gen. Adam Jimenez (ret.) to have San Juan, Estrada's hometown, placed under Comelec control because of the "well-entrenched influence of the former president and his family there which could color the results of the elections."

Gonzalez is facing former Estrada executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora while Jimenez is up against IV Ejercito, a son of Estrada.

"We will try to resolve all of

these next week," Borra had said before the weekend.

But a Comelec official said a "showdown" over decisions was expected in the en banc meetings between bickering factions in the commission, one identified with Benipayo and the other led by Tancanco.

Benipayo can reportedly count on the support of Borra and Tuason. The three were appointed to the Comelec by President Macapagal-Arroyo in February.

The other commissioners—Lantion, Javier and Mehul Sadain—are identified with Tancanco. The four, all appointed by former President Joseph Estrada, have clashed with Benipayo on a number of issues, including the reassignment of Comelec personnel.

Borra earlier downplayed the reported factionalism in the Comelec, saying the commissioners will decide issues "with the national interest in mind."

"We will all be deciding in favor of national interest and the public good," Borra said.

MAY DAY RALLIES

Labor issues take backseat

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

LABOR issues will be shunted aside today, a special day for the Filipino worker, as labor groups and their allies focus their attention on politics in the wake of the week-long protests and security threat posed by Estrada partisans seeking to return the deposed and imprisoned leader to power.

Some 80,000 workers are expected to join the Labor Day rally to be led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayan Muna and its allied organizations at Luvang Bonifacio before noon today.

Hundreds of thousands more are expected to gather in key cities in a series of indignation rallies nationwide to protest the attempt of the political opposition to seize power and bring down the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

KMU leader Crispin Beltran said that because of recent developments, workers will be emphasizing political issues in their traditional Labor Day gathering.

He said they would demand for the completion of the goals of the People Power 2 uprising that installed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

This year's celebration, dubbed "Hatal ng bayan: Usigin, parusahan si Estrada!" (The people's cry: prosecute and punish Estrada!), would reaffirm the victory of the January uprising that ousted Estrada.

Elmer Labog, KMU secretary general, said today's nationally coordinated rallies could be a launching pad for a series of protest actions aimed at countering the effects of the week-old pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa.

Leaders of progressive organizations and anti-Estrada forces yesterday threw their full support behind the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, mainly to protect the gains of Edsa 2.

"We are allies of the GMA government as far as the prosecution of Estrada and his cronies are concerned. This issue has to be resolved decisively to show to the Estrada camp that they cannot just pressure the administration to give in to its caprices," said Bayan Muna's Ocampo.

He said "ring leaders" of the pro-Estrada camp exploited People Power in a desperate attempt to obtain favorable concessions from the Macapagal-Arroyo administration (and) in a last-ditch effort to "steal the people's victory."

No joke to this texter, please

BY D. VERIDIANO

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Mendoza presided at the activation of the new public assistance numbers yesterday and encouraged the public to text the PNP for any police-related information.

The cellphone numbers are primarily for phoned-in complaints against so-called "hoodlums in uniform," for reporting crimes, emergency assistance and similar complaints.



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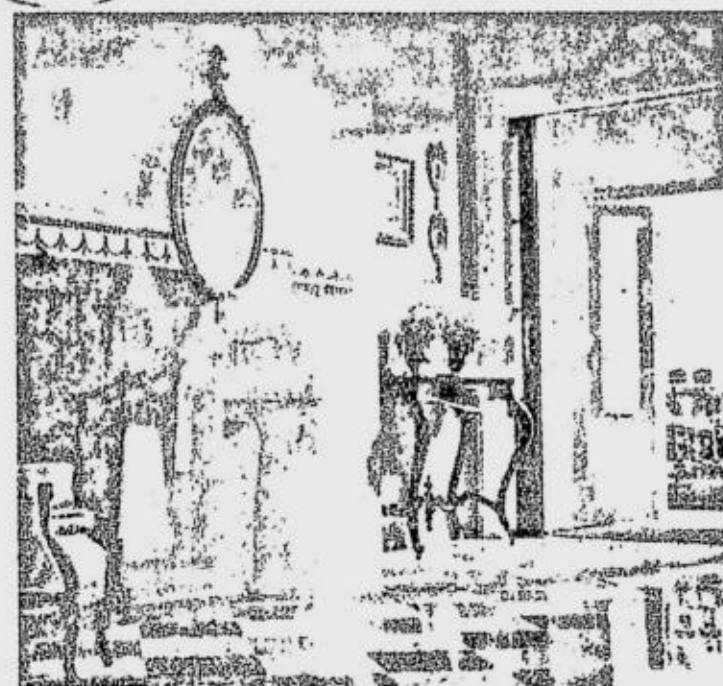
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Take the money but shun coup, cops told

OPEN LETTER

I have not been able to campaign outside Metro Manila for almost a month because of two recent family crises.

A younger sister underwent brain surgery due to ruptured aneurysm and is now on her way to recovery.

A few days ago, my 91-year-old mother suffered a heart attack and is presently confined in the ICU of St. Luke's Medical Center.

For all that had recently happened, I regret to announce that I will not be able to campaign outside Metro Manila. I will have to forego all the provincial sorties that were previously scheduled for me by my leaders.

My family's welfare is of utmost importance to me that it comes first before anything else in life. Thus, I have decided to spend the remaining few days of the campaign period beside my ailing mother who keeps looking and calling for me in these critical moments in our life.

I therefore leave my senatorial bid in the people's hands. It is your decision to elect wisely and conscientiously the senatorial candidates on whom you want to entrust the future of our nation.

I remain in the race as an independent senatorial candidate, hoping and praying that you will remember me when you vote on May 14. The fate of my candidacy is now in your hands. Please bear with me. I ask your prayers for my mother.

I worked hard and personally spent for this campaign. But I am willing to sacrifice all that for the sake of my mother. I can only beseech God to make her well and live longer.

Manuel Morato
MANUEL "Manoling" MORATO
 Senatorial Candidate - Independent

FOR SENATOR - INDEPENDENT

PAID FOR BY MANUEL MORATO

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAVAO CITY—"Accept the money, but don't join the coup. And report the coup plotters!"

This is the directive being circulated by the national police leadership to its members nationwide, said Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, the Southern Mindanao police chief.

Matillano said the directive was given verbally by Philippine National Police officials following a reported recruitment drive by former police and Army officials loyal to the imprisoned former President Joseph Estrada.

Matillano is one of the founding leaders of the Rebolusyanaryong Alyansang Makabansa, which twice, in 1987 and 1989, unsuccessfully mounted coups against the Aquino administration.

Matillano said RAM members have been conducting consultations and meetings with key officers of the regional commands, and among military battalions and PNP forces nationwide, to thwart reported moves to seize government power.

Plotters named

He said the coup plotters have been identified as former military and police officials. Authorities have also unmasked their contacts who are still in active service, particularly in the PNP, he said.

Matillano declined to give the names. But he said the target of these power-grabbers were members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, once headed by opposition senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson.

He said the PNP leadership had already neutralized former members of the PAOCTF who are still in the police force.

He added that Lacson and Sen. Gregorio Honasan, the ex-Army colonel who led several coup attempts against the Aquino administration, no longer had any credibility in the police and the military.

Lacson and Honasan were classmates at the Philippine Military Academy, class of 1971.

Repudiated

He said the RAM leadership and the Guardian's Brotherhood fraternity of police and military mem-

bers repudiated Honasan as their leader for allying himself with Estrada.

Col. Felipe Beroya, the Army's 701st brigade commander, said he had held talks with his commanders in the field and ordered them to follow the chain of command.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Rebolusyanaryong Alyansang Makabansa-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) claimed the Edsa rally was being financed by a group, including Lacson, which is advocating for the creation a civil-military junta.

In a statement circulated here, the RAM-SFP-YOU also confirmed reports that pro-Estrada politicians have been approaching young police and military officers, persuading them to defect.

"The agenda is not to return the former president to power. Lacson and his cohorts have hatched a grand design for the establishment of a civil-military junta," the statement read.

The group said Lacson and his alleged accomplices, who were not named, were also fanning the emotions of Estrada partisans by staging a black propaganda campaign against the Macapagal administration, aside from spending money to bring people to Edsa.

In Zamboanga City, Brig. Gen. Nelson Eslao, chief of the 3rd Tactical Operations Wing, said his group would strictly follow the chain of command under their commander in chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The PNP in Western Mindanao also affirmed its commitment to the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the First Tabak Division, said the troop movements have been concentrated only in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

"In a directive from AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Philippine Army chief Gen. Jaime de los Santos, we strictly adhere to the chain of command and we stick to this command. We impress on our people that we are strongly united under the present administration," Narcise said. *Reports from Jowel F. Canuday, Allan A. Naval and Julie Alipala-Inot*

Joker to plead for Erap's life

TABACO CITY—Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, People Power Coalition (PPC) senatorial candidate and staunch critic of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said here yesterday that he was against death penalty for the jailed former president.

Arroyo, who was campaigning in Bicol, said that if death penalty would be meted out on Estrada, he would plea that Estrada is spared.

But he said Erap deserved to be imprisoned due to irregularities he had committed against the people and the law.

Arroyo, one of the prosecutors in Estrada's impeachment trial, denied reports that he was not able to attend the PPC proclamation rally in this city on Sunday because President Macapagal-Arroyo called him to Manila to talk about problems over the pro-Erap rallies at Edsa. "If there was a problem in Edsa I should have

not been here," he said.

He added that he rushed to Manila for an important commitment.

Arroyo has belittled the pro-Estrada demonstration at the Edsa Shrine.

He said this "People Power III" would not prosper because the participants have no cause and it has no impact in the provinces.

"The impact will only be felt in Metro Manila, so how can they get a nationwide support?" Arroyo said.

He added that the pro-Erap supporters have only one reason, which is very personal only to Estrada: to free him.

Arroyo said he was very optimistic that there would be no movement in the country just to free an accused (Estrada). *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PPC moves HQ out of harm's way

LEGAZPI CITY—The People Power Coalition has, for reasons of security, moved out of its posh Renaissance Center headquarters on Meralco Avenue in Pasig City.

The pro-administration PPC reportedly transferred its operations and media office last Sunday because of the building's proximity to the Edsa Shrine, where thousands of supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada have been holding protests for almost a week.

The PPC abandoned the center for fear that the pro-Estrada forces would invade the building which is owned by a PPC supporter.

PPC staff and some of its candidates who are campaigning in Bicol on the penultimate leg of the coalition's 13-day caravan have not even been told yet about where the new office would be.

Teddy Lopez, of the PPC secretariat, said he was told that the media bureau had been transferred to an undisclosed location. But the PPC operations center has not moved and was still operating in the old location, he said.

Paul Aquino, a brother-in-law of former President Corazon Aquino, is the PPC national campaign director. His sister, Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, is the image consultant for the coalition's candidates.

Kashiwahara is directing the caravan, which has taken the candidates to nine provinces in Mindanao and key areas in the Visayas. Candidates Liwayway Chato, Roberto Pagdanganan, Juan Flavio, Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan and Frank Drilon have carried on with the campaign in Sorsogon, Albay and Camarines Sur and Norte despite the political crisis in the capital.

Albay Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro said PPC-allied parties stand ready to mobilize thousands of Bicolanos and transport them to Mendiola to help defend the Macapagal administration.

"As of now, there is no reason to stop our campaign," Kashiwahara said.

The PPC caravan will be arriving in Manila today to attend the Labor Day celebrations and will proceed to Tarlac in the evening.

The Northern Luzon provinces will form the last leg of the PPC's 13-day "victory run." *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Tourism is alive in RP-Gordon

"TELL them that life goes on. Offices are open. Malls are full. Vacationers are gearing up for Maytime activities like Flores de Mayo."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday directed Philippine tourism attaches all over the world to continue to promote the country aggressively and to point out to foreigners that recent political developments here are signs of "democracy at work."

Gordon told the attaches in a directive to paint a picture of actual life in the Philippines. He told them to explain that a vibrant democracy serves tourism well.

"In an open society like the Philippines, there is an unbridled flow of information. The press is active and free. Tourists are in for no great surprises, except finding out how great the Philippine tourism experience is," he said.

Gordon issued the directive as he expressed support for the Macapagal administration, saying the President was doing the right things for the country.

Gordon also called on the people massing at the Edsa Shrine "not to allow yourselves to be used by those who are out to destabilize the government to further their political ambitions."

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Why power grab failed

(From page A1)

pine National Police Chief Panfilo Lacson—who plotted the daring, if not suicidal, plan despite the fact that they had failed to win significant support from the armed forces and the police.

The moderates sensed that the agenda of the firebrands had escalated from a mere protest over what they perceived as the harsh arrest and treatment of Estrada to the more seditious plot to seize power.

They felt that the march was a move by the firebrands to hijack the demonstrations to promote a coup plan, which sidelined Estrada.

"A split in the command group of the Erap loyalist forces was manifested in a meeting which started at 12 noon (Sunday) at the Polk Street residence of Erap," the two-page report said.

The report underscored that "Honasan was the most emphatic that the crowd tonight (Sunday, April 29) should be agitated to march on Malacañang at 2 a.m."

Disastrous

But Angara "argued that the march on Malacañang could be disastrous to the opposition if there is an outbreak of the violence which could escalate."

"The Angara group further averred that a march on Malacañang

is very dangerous to the current political climate and to the peace and order situation of the country because there is no command and control structure (for the Erap loyalists) that has control of the situation," the report noted.

Symptoms of the split appeared at the rally on Sunday evening where Angara told the crowd not to resort to provocative acts.

Other sources with friends inside the Estrada camp said that Estrada had counseled his allies to wait for another three days before marching on Malacañang.

The alignment of J.V. Ejercito with the moderates appears to reflect Estrada's position. In a broadcast message from his detention room at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Estrada cautioned his supporters against violence.

The moderates bewailed the demonstrations for having no clear objectives and that the rallies had become a Babel of different positions and points of view.

The march

The plan was to order the crowds at Edsa to march on Malacañang, accompanied by armed men, the intelligence report said. The mass of Estrada supporters was to spearhead the attack.

Government forces would be

provoked to fire at the advancing protesters, sparking rioting and defections from the military and the national police, according to the report.

The armed men were to come from the 500 police personnel who went on AWOL (absence without official leave) after the resignation of Lacson from the Philippine National Police (PNP), and from members of the Guardian, a fraternity of soldiers identified with Honasan.

Missing fund

It also revealed that the rally at the Edsa Shrine might soon fizzle out because of "missing fund" intended for the mobilization of the protesters.

"At this point, a big problem is how to sustain the funding of the mobilization and mass action," the report said.

The report said that the leadership of the forces loyal to Estrada had acknowledged that "funding for the Edsa activity will (be) greatly reduced starting tomorrow."

The sources said that disputes over money to finance the demonstrations and the senatorial campaign drove the cleavage wider.

The firebrands wanted an attack and a resolution of the conflict while the pro-Estrada rallies still had the numbers on Edsa.

Sources said that the Edsa crowd was getting restless last Sunday evening, waiting for the orders to march. But the orders did not come. The military had expected the march on Saturday or Sunday evening, according to the sources.

There were indications that when the firebrands escalated their plans for a power grab, they overestimated their capacity, based on the crowds swelling the Edsa rallies, and their chances of sparking defections in the military.

However, the reality at the weekend was that the government was quietly building its defense forces, giving Ms Macapagal the confidence to say at her press conference yesterday that the armed forces were prepared to "crush" the attempt.

Arrest opposition leaders
Military sources said that the government was prepared to arrest opposition leaders who were inciting the demonstrations to violence as soon as the orders to march were issued.

The report also disclosed that JV Ejercito had insisted on transferring the rally to wherever his father was in detention.

"This point was met by heavy opposition from the moderate members of the command group," the report said.

Estrada is undergoing a medical

checkup at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. There is a plan to transfer him to the PNP Special Forces camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, after the checkup.

Angara yesterday admitted that there were "factions" within the Estrada camp because of their differing objectives.

"It looks like it. So far I think the peaceful way is winning," he said in a phone interview.

Minimum demand

Angara believes that the "minimum demand" among Estrada's allies was a "fair" trial for Estrada.

"What they expect is a fair hearing, no pre-judgment. At the bottom, that's the demand," he said.

He said he wanted the "crisis" resolved as quickly as possible "because the Macapagal administration has almost become a lame duck (government). So it's important it be resolved one way or another."

Former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, whose last-minute withdrawal of support from Estrada hastened the success of People Power II, also downplayed calls made by fellow opposition candidates to reinstall Estrada as President.

"I have a more realistic, a less... I'm conjuring a less radical scenario. It's enough to say it's peace-

ful," he told the INQUIRER Friday.

Puno said he did not agree with the calls of Enrile, Santiago, Maceda, Lacson and Honasan.

From the very start, the firebrands had called for Ms Macapagal's resignation and Estrada's return to Malacañang.

Those identified with this group had first called for a siege on Camp Crame to free Estrada. When nothing came out of this, they called for a siege on Malacañang.

Santiago denied that she wanted a military junta to take over, saying she only wanted Estrada back in Malacañang.

Honasan and Lacson have also denied allegations that they were planning a military coup.

The INQUIRER tried to reach the three yesterday but was told they were not available for interview.

In a statement yesterday, Santiago warned the administration against filing criminal charges against her for her inflammatory statements at the Edsa Shrine rally.

She said administration officials made similar inflammatory statements at Edsa II last January when they demanded Estrada's resignation.

She said the administration has no "moral ascendancy" to assure Estrada's supporters that due process would be given to Estrada.

AFP, PNP keep faith with gov't

(From page A1)

terday amid persistent reports that the anti-Macapagal forces were offering huge bribes to military officers and soldiers to turn against the government.

In an apparent effort to underscore that the military is no mercenary army, the AFP dubbed its operational plan to protect the government as "Oplan Righteous Cause."

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Oplan Righteous Cause was set up to deal decisively with any armed force that may challenge the 101-day-old administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Col. Victor Corpuz, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), said the military was prepared to protect the Constitution at all costs.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said all PNP forces had been alerted to maintain "peace and order."

Neither Corpuz nor Mendoza confirmed nor denied the order to "crush the march."

Adan said military leaders did not expect any officers or soldiers to break away from the chain of command in a reprise of People Power II.

"It's because the issues now are different. The Armed Forces identifies with the values of the present administration. We reflect the values of the Filipino people," Adan repeated.

Price list

Since Estrada supporters started massing at the Edsa Shrine following his arrest last Wednesday, talk has spread about an alleged "price list" for "buying" the Armed Forces.

One report provides these breathtaking figures: P500,000 for privates; P1 million for non-commissioned officers (sergeants); P5 million for lieutenants; P8 million for captains and majors; and P10 million for colonels.

The price for generals: P20-50 million.

A more conservative account estimates that P300,000 can "buy" you a sergeant who commands a certain number of soldiers with the rank of private.

Lieutenants and captains "cost" P500,000; majors, P1 million, especially if they command battalions; and colonels, P2 million.

Generals can be allegedly be fetched at a higher price and negotiations can go skyward.

A third version deals with a lump sum: if one can fork over between P2-4 billion, he can get himself an army. "Our soldiers cannot be bought,"

Hindi sila mukhang pera, Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

Verifying rumors

In an interview at the AFP general headquarters yesterday, Villanueva said he has been personally investigating reports of alleged bribes.

Villanueva noted that he once checked on the veracity of reports that the Philippine Marine Corps

was being offered bribe—and subsequently apologized for doing so. "I had to have them checked,"

Villanueva said, referring to rumors that an opposition candidate had conferred with Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia.

Other sources interviewed about the supposed price list dodged questions as to whether cash is indeed being offered by alleged pro-Estrada recruiters.

Even AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan declined to categorically confirm or deny the "business side" of the Estrada camp's alleged military recruitment effort.

The AFP leadership had said that they have received reports that two opposition senatorial candidates identified with the military and police were allegedly part of the recruitment drive.

Sigh of relief

For their part, Air Force officers heaved a sigh of relief after President Macapagal did not relieve their commanding general, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, following allegations that a cabal led by him and his sister, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, was plotting to install a civilian-military junta.

"He's still the CG (commanding general). Otherwise, (Ms Macapagal) would have relieved him (on Sunday night)," Air Force spokesperson Col. Lino Lapinid said in an interview yesterday.

Some Air Force personnel had voiced fears that Ms Macapagal

would order Defensor's relief when she called him to Malacañang late Sunday afternoon.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes also summoned the Air Force chief to Camp Aguinaldo in the morning for the same reason.

Defensor, however, dismissed the report as mere speculation and part of a disinformation campaign against him and his sister, and vowed loyalty to "the Constitution."

Closed-door meetings
Shortly before midnight Sunday, leaders of Estrada supporters, estimated by police to number 1.5 million, started agitating the crowd into marching on Malacañang to demand the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the reinstatement of Estrada.

As the crowd continued to swell, military and police generals held separate closed-door meetings in their respective camps until around 2 a.m. yesterday to assess the situation.

The generals discussed strategies to prevent an alleged coup attempt being plotted by a handful of opposition senatorial candidates, said officials who attended the meetings.

Emerging from their meetings, police and military generals interviewed by the INQUIRER said they were prepared to "thwart any eventuality."

Police and military checkpoints were set up outside of Metro Manila to stop the opposition from bus-ing Estrada loyalists to Manila, and to prevent armed groups from infiltrating the crowds both at Edsa and

Mendiola and triggering a bloody confrontation, the sources said.

After unity of AFP

The Air Force headquarters in Villamor Air Base is reportedly still being closely monitored for any troop or aircraft movement.

But Lapinid sought to allay fears and quash reports that a coup attempt was in the offing and that Defensor would take part in it.

"These coup rumors are only reported in the papers," he said, adding that only three rescue helicopters or the so-called air ambulances were on standby in case of an emergency.

Lapinid also reiterated that Defensor would not participate in any moves to destabilize the government.

"I still believe he's following the chain of command. He is after the unity of the AFP. He will never do anything that will divide the AFP," he said.

Like the other branches of the Armed Forces, the Air Force has been placed on red alert since Estrada's arrest.

Lapinid stressed that the alert was raised as part of the Air Force internal defense against any attempt by "the enemy of the state" to take advantage of the situation and launch an attack, apparently referring to the communists.

Retired officers

Retired generals made it known that they "vehemently" oppose the return of Estrada because "he has lost credibility, trustworthiness and

moral ascendancy."

Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, chair of the Association [of General and Flag Officers, said Estrada's impeachment trial revealed "his [illegal and immoral activities, culpable violations of the Constitution and offenses indictable under the anti-graft law."

In Iloilo City, PNP and military officials pledged support to President Macapagal, joining other regional and provincial commands that have declared their loyalty to the government.

In a weekly flag-raising ceremony at Camp Martin Delgado, the PNP regional headquarters, Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, police director for the Western Visayas, told policemen to "toe the line and support the duly constituted authorities."

He also told the policemen not to be swayed by "mob rule."

"The police force here is intact and so far, we have not received reports of pro-Estrada rallies here," said Supt. Norlito Bautista, public information officer of the Western Visayas police.

Brig. General Pedro Atienza, commanding officer of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which covers Panay, Negros Occidental and Bohol, said his troops were not affected with events in Manila.

"We are too busy with internal security operations especially for the coming elections," Atienza told the INQUIRER as he reiterated his support for the Macapagal administration. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

NBI eyes sedition charges

(From page A1)

Aside from monitoring the speeches, the NBI is also verifying reports that some opposition officials were involved in a plot to topple the Macapagal administration.

Negotiations between the Estrada camp and top government officials have started, according to JV Ejercito, a son of the ousted president.

Ejercito yesterday said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes phoned him Sunday night to "consult" him on the protest rallies at the Edsa Shrine, including the size of the crowd, its activities and plans for the future.

"They are scared by the size of the crowd at Edsa," Ejercito told reporters in a phone interview. "Reyes has just consulted me about it."

Agence France Presse quoted Ejercito as saying that at least 17 military officials had expressed willingness to defect to the Estrada camp. But he refused to name them or their rank.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said last night that "legal teams are now looking into the utterances made at Edsa."

"We cannot just let this pass," Lina said, adding that those found liable could be charged with rebellion.

He said lawyers belonging to the Department of Justice and the Presidential Management Staff would review the speeches made by leaders of the loyalist rallies.

Leaders of militant groups urged the President to take "decisive" ac-

tion against the "ringleaders" of the supposed coup plot and charge them with inciting the protesters at Edsa to seditious and civil disobedience.

They said that while the sobriety of the government in the face of the massive rallies was commendable, it was high time it took a stronger stand.

Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, called on the administration to file charges against Enrile, Santiago and Lacson.

"When we launched People Power II, we were fighting for legitimate issues—among these, to oust a president who betrayed public trust. In their case, they want to topple the present government to install again the former administration that betrayed the people," Ocampo said.

According to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Rafael Mariano, the government should prove that it is in control of the situation and no longer take developments lightly.

Groups behind People Power II are also demanding that the government pursue Estrada's trial for plunder and arrest Santiago, Enrile, Honasan and Lacson for their "seditious" statements.

Individual initiatives

Ejercito said he had "overheard" that Enrile and Sen. Vicente Sotto III were having informal negotiations with representatives of the government, although he could not confirm this as he was "busy with the crowd."

He said Lina had been talking with Ronaldo Puno, former interior secretary and a brother of Ricardo Puno, Estrada's press secretary.

The negotiations could be "individual" initiatives, he said, but did not elaborate.

Estrada has supposedly called on his loyalists at the Edsa Shrine to storm Malacañang on May 2 if nothing comes out of the negotiations.

But anti-Estrada groups behind People Power II moved swiftly to Mendiola, in response to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's call to the faithful to defend the duly constituted government.

Ejercito shrugged off Sin's call, saying the cardinal's statements "are simply dividing the faithful."

"See, few people heeded his call and went to church last Sunday. Only the militant groups heeded his call and went to Mendiola," Ejercito said.

Ejercito said the protesters at Edsa could hardly be stopped from taking their fight to Mendiola.

He said that he had been trying to stop his father's supporters from marching to Mendiola for the past five days because he did not want bloodshed, but that he might not be able to stand in their way any longer.

A member of the President's Cabinet said yesterday that a general identified with the Estrada camp was trying to stir up a coup attempt.

A military intelligence report submitted to the President said the general, whom the source did not name, was currently on leave but was being closely monitored.

"He (the general) is the contact of the Erap camp and he is the one allegedly talking to military officials

active in the service," for them to defect, said the source who asked not to be named.

Sunday night

The crowd spilled over and occupied the Ortigas roads up to the front gates of Camp Crame at around 3 a.m.

At the chanting of "Lusob (usob, usob)!" Ejercito urged his "comrades" to wait for the results of ongoing negotiations between their camp and the Macapagal administration.

"*Unikot na ang mga tumbong nila* (They're panicking). Gloria, bumaba ka na (step down)!" he said.

But at around 3 a.m., Ejercito announced that they had received reports that barricades were set up on the streets from Edsa leading to Mendiola.

He said that they did not want blood to be spilled, and that those massed at Mendiola were also their brothers and sisters.

At 5:30 a.m., Ejercito announced that the plan to march to Malacañang had been aborted "to prevent bloodshed."

Then the assembly sang the National Anthem.

'Tapusin na'

At a certain point in the loyalist rallies, Santiago had cried: "*Tapusin na, tapusin na, tapusin na* (Finish it)!"

In response, the crowd chanted: "*Lusob, lusob, lusob!*" Santiago also called on the President, Vice President Teofisto Guingona and her entire Cabinet to step down, or the loyalists would be forced to

storm Malacañang.

In an interview with TV station Net25 the other night, Santiago said Ms Macapagal's downfall was imminent ("Malapit na, malapit na").

"*Ihabalik na natin si Erap* (We will bring Estrada back)," she said. Asked when that would be, Santiago said this week, or not later than Labor Day.

She said the President should step down now to save herself.

"She might get immunity (from criminal prosecution)," said Santiago as she warned that Ms Macapagal would find herself in the same situation as the disgraced ex-president.

"We will also charge her with plunder (after she steps down)," Santiago said.

But Education Secretary Raul Roco expressed confidence at a press briefing yesterday that Malacañang was prepared for any eventuality.

He said the protesters at Edsa should understand that the executive was just implementing the orders of the judiciary.

Roco also shrugged off Santiago's claims that some police and military officials were defecting to the Estrada camp to ensure the success of "Edsa III."

He said that if there really were a coup attempt in the offing, its proponents and supporters would not be so foolish as to squal on who would instigate the show of force.

"(Santiago's) statements, *per se*, are incredible. They should not be taken seriously. She argues with herself and then loses. Her words contradict reality," Roco said.

No more clout

Honasan's comrades in the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan and the Guardians believe that he no longer has the clout to mount such a devastating coup attempt as he launched against the Aquino administration a decade ago.

"We don't think Gringo can make it happen," said a source within the RAM and the Guardians. "He maintains his charisma and gift of gab can still draw some military support, enough for some limited tactical moves, enough to create some havoc..." But in RAM he is marginalized."

The source added: "He apparently has not learned (from his experience). He has become a consummate politician... What he (also) hasn't learned is that a coup without principles will not succeed... A takeover would be possible but to govern will be impossible."

For a long time, Honasan remained a fugitive after launching a series of bloody coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

His assault on Malacañang, Camp Olivas and certain television stations in August 1987 left 53 persons killed and 300 wounded.

His sixth and biggest coup attempt, on Dec. 1, 1989, left 113 killed and 500 wounded as he attacked the PTV-4 and ABS-CBN stations, the airport, Camp Crame and Aguinaldo, and Sangley Point in Cavite. *Reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Blanche S. Rivera, Dona Z. Pazibugan, Christine Herrera, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Christine Avendaño, Rosary Diane Baytion, Leila Salaverria, and AFP*

INC pulls out of Edsa; Net 25 has last hurrah

(From page A1)

the religious sect's Central on Commonwealth Avenue belied the denial of Interior Secretary Jose Lina that negotiations were being held to end the five-day drama on Edsa.

Earlier, opposition senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara claimed that the Estrada camp had started negotiations with the Macapagal administration over the demands being raised by the Edsa crowd. Manalo was assured by Ms Macapagal's emissaries that Estrada would be given his "day in court" and "due process."

Ms Macapagal also sent her message to the INC hierarchy that the administration did not have any plan to disperse the crowd at the shrine but it would be "dealt with" if the crowd continued to insist on causing disruption of traffic and on breaking the peace and order by marching to Mendiola as the organizers allegedly planned last Sunday.

"That was the assurance that the INC wants to get from this administration. The INC did not demand anything but due process for Mr. Estrada," the INC official said.

Negotiators

Those who met with Manalo were Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Senate President

Aquilino Pimentel.

Shortly after the meeting, Manalo gathered other INC officials to issue his directives, according to the source.

The Macapagal officials, according to the source, complained about the "perversion of truth" and the "lies" peddled by opposition leaders before the Edsa throngs. These lies were aired on the INC radio and TV stations.

Ms Macapagal also complained about the "misleading" pronouncements of Pwersang Masa senatorial candidates Miriam Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson that "Mr. Estrada should not have been arrested because he was not yet convicted," the source said.

Net 25 and dzEC, both run by the INC, went back to their regular programming at around 3 p.m. Instead of the live coverage of the Edsa gathering, Net 25 aired play station and news updates.

Last hurrah

At about 1 p.m., "goons" of Net 25-dzEC allegedly tried to stop mediemen from covering a protest action held by about 20 campus journalists in front of its office in Quezon City.

Numbering between 70 and 100, they dispersed the students from the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) and the youth group, Anakbayan, even be-

fore they could start their protest action at about 1 p.m. yesterday.

Press photographers and TV cameramen tried to take shots of the commotion but "burly" though unarmed men tried to confiscate their equipment.

At least two photographers from two dailies and a TV cameraman complained that their cameras were broken as a result of the assault.

A passerby identified as Reynaldo Refran, 22, reportedly a student of the University of the Philippines-Manila, sustained minor injuries during the scuffle.

The INQUIRER tried to get the side of Net 25 but all their lines were either busy or not available.

CEGP chair Rey Asis said that as soon as they arrived at the premises of Net 25 on Edsa near Quezon Avenue the men encircled them and forced them out of the area.

Just as the scuffle started, Refran, whom Asis said did not belong to their group, passed by and started to shout "Net 25 bayaran (mercenary)."

Irked by the taunting, some of the network's men ran after Refran and punched him in the face.

"We are just doing our jobs here and this is a legitimate coverage. They should not harm us, especially because they are also supposedly employees of a media institution," said Daily Tribune photographer Tonying

Penaredondo.

Penaredondo said his camera was broken.

The camera of Today photographer, Robert Vinas, was also broken.

Asis said the protesters only wanted to air their concern over Net 25-dzEC's unethical practices in its coverage of the Edsa rallies and its "massive disinformation campaign."

"It is such a shame that some of our colleagues in the mainstream media permit themselves to be used by the criminal Estrada regime," Asis said. "Violating the ethics and responsibilities of their profession, dzEC, among many other media outfits, has violated the people's right to know by hailing Estrada as the champion of the masses and denying the very existence of his many crimes."

He said that since it started its coverage on the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa, it had peddled nothing "but lies."

Other cause-oriented groups and even concerned citizens had decried the non-stop, one-sided account of the television network on the pro-Estrada rallies.

Taunting

Net 25 news anchors had been taunting the country's major TV networks for their failure to keep pace with its live coverage of a "newsworthy" event.

They pointed out that these net-

Pro-Erap group downplays INC, El Shaddai withdrawal

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A MAJOR pro-Estrada group yesterday downplayed the reported withdrawal of support of the Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai from the protest rallies at Edsa for jailed President Joseph Estrada.

Ronald Lumbao, spokesperson of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), said the so-called "Edsa III" would continue even without the support of the two religious sects.

"The leaderships of these two sects may have withdrawn their

support but their members have apparently not," Lumbao told the INQUIRER.

"The people are still here and that is a clear indication that Edsa III is not over yet. Just wait and see," he added.

He maintained that "it was for the people to decide" and not for the leaders to say when the uprising should end.

But as of 8 p.m. yesterday, the size of the crowd appeared to have thinned. Police estimated the crowd at less than half its number during the same time the other night.

works continuously covered People Power II for four days last January but not the so-called People Power III.

Executives of both ABS-CBN and GMA 7 denied there was deliberate attempt to downplay the coverage and cited safety problems for not airing live broadcasts of the rallies.

But Angara was not convinced about the safety problem.

"An act of cowardice," Angara called the failure of local media to cover the Edsa rally as extensively

as he believed it should have been.

"That's why we have war correspondents. Part of the hazards of being in journalism is that you can get hurt on the job," added Angara during an interview as he was leaving the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he visited Estrada yesterday.

His remarks were in the context of his complaint about the "limited" media coverage being given to the then swelling rallies on Edsa. *With a report from Volt Contreras*



A SLEEPLESS AFP Chief of Staff, Diomedio Villanueva, holds a press conference at 2 a.m. Monday. RANDY HORMILLOSA

AFP ready to crush Erap coup

(From page A1)

Manila following reports that the Estrada camp was trying to put up an armed group against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said a battalion of about 500 soldiers from the Northern Luzon Command arrived Sunday evening.

A complement of armored units consisting of Scorpion light tanks, and V150 and V300 armored fighting vehicles were also brought in.

"We have beefed up our forces in Metro Manila to augment the Philippine National Police (PNP) in defending the capital," Adan said.

The reinforcement raised the strength of "Task Force Libra," the military's anti-coup force, to 2,500 personnel. Brig. Gen. Dionisio Santiago heads the task force.

The force complements some 6,000 police personnel, mainly for civil disturbance control, deployed in key locations in the metropolis.

Checkpoints have also been set up at the major approaches to Metro Manila while Navy ships have been mobilized "to monitor and verify any unauthorized troop movement," Adan said.

There's more to the defense of Metro Manila against Estrada supporters seeking to oust Ms Macapagal.

Shock troops have been deployed at vital installations in Metro Manila like water and power facilities as well as media outlets, specifically television stations being criticized by Estrada supporters.

The Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City where Estrada is undergoing medical checkup has also been placed under tight security.

"We also assure that former President Joseph Estrada is safe, adequately secured and guarded," Adan said.

Police also tightened security at the residence of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin in Mandaluyong amid reports that Estrada loyalists would storm

the villa.

Carlos de Guzman, chief of the Mandaluyong Public Order and Safety team, said he sent 30 personnel to Villa San Miguel.

Rumors of an attack by Estrada supporters sent some 200 priests and nuns flocking to the chapel inside Villa San Miguel. They held a vigil to pray for peace and unification.

Adan reiterated that Villanueva had given clear instructions "to deal decisively (against) any armed force confronting the AFP and PNP in defending the capital."

He pointed out that the armed forces had the capability to deploy men and armor at any point in Metro Manila "within a few minutes."

Crime groups watched

Adan disclosed that the military was keeping an eye on organized crime groups.

He said the opposition might enlist the support of criminal gangs, including remnants of the notorious Kuratong Baleleng syndicate.

"The armed forces has received reports that some lawless elements, particularly criminal syndicates, might join" the Edsa rally, Adan said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government had all the means to deal with the situation.

"We are preparing for the worst scenario always. We would like to assure the public that the government has the overwhelming capability to counter and destroy threats against the government and its people," Reyes said.

Dressed in fatigues, Villanueva said the military would adopt a maximum tolerance policy toward the Estrada supporters as long as they remained at the vicinity of the Edsa Shrine.

"I cannot see a threat from people who are unarmed and in a festive mood," he said. "But they will become a threat if they march on Malacañang."

Villanueva said the AFP would rather err "on the side of caution" than allow

Estrada supporters to get close to Malacañang.

Adan said the military would not allow Estrada supporters to come to a point where they could inflict damage.

Santiago said the decision as to when and where the Estrada supporters would be stopped during a march on the Palace "will be a situational matter."

He said the Presidential Security Group would tell the military at what point the march would be blocked.

In Camp Crame, Director General Leandro Mendoza, the PNP chief, said the PNP "is on top of the situation and ready for any eventuality."

At the height of coup rumors, Mendoza visited police personnel deployed at strategic places in Metro Manila.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) from the five police districts in the metropolis back the CDM units on Edsa, in Makati City and at Mendiola Bridge in Manila.

The PNP Air Group is also monitoring the movement of Estrada supporters. In his visits to PNP teams, members of various non-government organizations and civil society accompanied Mendoza. The civil society is reportedly providing food and refreshment to government forces.

Revive broad united front

For his part, Jose Ma Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, called for the revival of the "united front that toppled Estrada from power."

"It is extremely abhorrent that a plunderer, a ruffian is trying to escape accountability for his crimes either to improve the electoral chances of his criminal gang or to return to power by spending huge amounts of money to rent a crowd from the ranks of the lumpens and from politico-religious group," he said in a statement.

Sison said Estrada's attempt to return to power could be frustrated if the people "rise up nationwide in sustained mass actions." *With reports from Agnes Donato and Christine Herrera*

Dong extols virtue of bad smell

(From page A1)

rallying cry, former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno, known for his penchant for designer suits and impeccable grooming, went to great lengths to portray himself as a member of the great unwashed.

Puno, an opposition senatorial candidate, told the pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine Sunday night that the demonstrators should not take offense when called "mababaho" (smelly) by their critics.

"Nagdudumi daw tayo, ang babaho daw natin. Siguro nga mababaho tayo dito. Pero yang baho na yan, maalís pagligo natin. Pero yung baho nila hindi na maaalis (They say we make a mess, that we smell. Maybe we do smell, but we can wash away the stink with a bath. But their smell will not go away)," Puno proclaimed, smiling.

His remarks provided a welcome dose of humor during a tense night for both the pro- and anti-Estrada camps, as the latter watched the Edsa Shrine gathering on their television screens.

Critics of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada have criticized the crowd, which is mostly made up of poor people, for leaving heaps of trash on Edsa and using the area as an outdoor toilet.

Allies of Estrada, on the other hand, have repeatedly tried to pit the poor against the rich and paint themselves as champions of the poor in speeches at the huge rally.

Puno, who has said that he does not support the call aired by other Estrada allies to restore his former boss to the presidency, concentrated instead on lambasting those who have criticized the pro-Estrada rally.

He lashed out at the Catholic Church hierarchy for circulating a pastoral letter urging Catholics to wear blue to protest the supposed "desecration" of the shrine by the Estrada loyalists.

'Blessed'

He told the crowd that they were "blessed" because they did not have to listen to the pastoral letter.

The pastoral letter also addressed the Estrada supporters, exhorting them to remain peaceful.

Puno, who was head of the ABS-CBN news and current affairs division before he joined the Estrada Cabinet, also criticized his former network and its rival GMA-7 for not covering the newsworthy event in the manner that the opposition would like.

He asked the media to report "realistic" estimates of the crowd.

"It's not just a few thousands but millions who are here," he said in Filipino.

He asked the crowd to be patient.

"Let us not get impatient, let us not get tired. That's what a true Edsa hero should be like—like you," he added.

But he did not say what the crowd should wait for. *With a report from Irene Andrea C. Perez*

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OPINION

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Taiwan drawn into China-US row

NEWS ANALYSIS

Benjamin Kang Lim

plucking the whiskers of the Chinese tiger. "But will this push Taiwan toward the tiger's mouth?" the newspaper asked.

Precarious China-US relations appear headed into further trouble with reports that President Chen may meet congressmen during stopovers in the United States next month.

Beijing menaced Taiwan with war games from 1995 to 1996 after then President Lee Teng-hui's landmark US visit to try to break the island out of diplomatic isolation.

Many China-watchers are betting Beijing would not misbehave badly lest rowdiness dash its hopes of hosting the 2008 Olympics. But Beijing's Olympic dream could turn into a nightmare if the Chinese are humiliated in their second bid to host the Games. "If Beijing loses its bid to host the Olympics, the Chinese would lose a lot of face. And they could vent their furore and frustration at Taiwan," Hsu said.

Nationalism looms large over Chinese leaders and Taiwan. Political analysts said China and the United States appear to be on a collision course, threatening to drag out a 22-month political stalemate between Taipei and Beijing.

Taiwan's top negotiator with China renewed last week a call for his Chinese counterpart to resume stalled talks, saying time was running out for the two octogenarian envoys. But Beijing rebuffed the call on grounds that President Chen still refuses to kowtow to its cherished "one

China" principle which commit the island to reunification.

Analysts said Beijing would stick to its strategy of wooing the island's opposition and business leaders and ignoring Chen. "Communist China has no illusions about Chen Shui-bian," said, K.S. Chiu, a China-watcher at National Chengchi University's Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies.

Bush's apparent hardening of the US position on defending Taiwan delighted the vulnerable island, but the joy was tempered by fears of betrayal from its US protector.

"Bush is a lot friendlier toward Taiwan than the previous administration," Lai Ching-lin, a lawmaker in President Chen's party, said. "But Taiwan has always been worried the Americans would sacrifice it as a pawn in their dealings with Communist China."

Washington left Taipei out in the diplomatic cold in 1979 when it switched recognition to Beijing. It was not until months later that the US Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act, which obliges the United States to provide the island with weapons to defend itself but is ambiguous on whether US forces would be used in its defenses.

"Bush's pledge to help Taiwan defend itself could foster pro-independence sentiment on the island," said Yang Kai-huang, a professor of political science at the private Soochow University.

Beijing has threatened to attack Taiwan if it declares independence or drags its feet on unification talks.

"If Bush's remarks leads to conflict between Taiwan and Communist China, he will be 'very sorry' for what he said," Yang said, referring to the US expression of regret that won the release of the detained crew of the downed American spy plane. Reuters

Again, the dumb 'masa'

(Conclusion)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



paign, I said, it would give us another Flor Contemplacion. The national fury over Contemplacion owed not so much to the perception that she was innocent—though most of us thought so, as does many of the poor about Erap, or they simply do not care—but to the perception that she wasn't given an even break. To the perception that her case was rushed, and that she wasn't really given a chance to speak on her behalf in court. And now there they were ready to execute her. All the country was asking for was just a little more time, and Singapore would not give it.

If I was wrong about the potential of that arrest for creating another Contemplacion, it was only in that it produced more than a Contemplacion. BBC asked me that question recently, if I anticipated the so-called "Edsa III," and I said no, not in my wildest imagination. I knew arresting Erap before the elections was a mistake, I did not know how big a mistake it would be. For that I blame the way the arrest was carried out. That was the part where I was reminded of our school professor rapping a student in the head for not having both eyes opened while looking at a microscope.

Later, I would learn from talking to people that one detail in particular stuck out with them. It was not the phalanx of shielded police that came to escort Erap, it was not women that shed tears of grief for their idol, it was not even the bloodied faces of the men that fought off the truncheon-wielding anti-riot squads. It was the sight of Erap being photographed left, right and front like a common thief. (Arguably he was a most uncommon one!)

The image was electric. I understand that that was the one image that drove Eraño Manalo to order his religious troops to man the barricades: He was furious.

He wasn't alone in feeling that way. Most of those who had voted for Erap, and who had already resigned themselves to his being ousted from office and prosecuted for a thief, felt so too. Their loyalties suddenly rekindled, they vented their rage at Edsa.

In one fell swoop, that one image blotted out all

the important lessons the government had wanted to teach. I would see later on television all the lawyers come back to explain what was going to happen to Erap's case. They missed the point. At that point, Erap's case had gone past the legal to the political, had gone past the legal to the psychological, had gone past the legal to the cultural. That one photograph of Erap with a number below his sullen face had made it so.

None of this is to suggest that the *masa* are incapable of rational thought. All of this is to suggest the power of timing, context, emotional resonance, images, pictures, signs, symbols, which all of us respond to. That was how Edsa II happened, to begin with. It didn't happen because of the charisma of Jaime Cardinal Sin, or Cory Aquino, or Fidel Ramos, or Ms Macapagal, as I keep saying. It happened because of a long morality play that played out before Filipinos, a morality play that had heroes and villains, gods and monsters, signs and symbols. It happened because of the education the impeachment trial, which became more popular than "Rosalinda," gave. It happened because of the provocation people like Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Santiago, who became more villainous than the *contravidas* in the *telenovelas*, gave.

You cannot fight "Edsa III" with mere calls for counter demonstrations, or legal arguments, or even with replaying the impeachment trial on TV. You can only fight it with new story lines, new images, new signs and symbols—which you cannot produce overnight. It is not enough to know what lessons to teach, it is just as vital—if not more so—to know how to teach them.

The attitude of dismissing the masses that huddle at Edsa reminds me of another teacher in our school. He taught math, and constantly frustrated by his students' inability to learn his lessons, he flunked a good many of them. At one time, unusually thwarted by one class' inability to comprehend his mathematical concepts, he flunked all of his students.

The school dropped him, too. It figured—rightly—that the problem had nothing to do with the students. It had everything to do with the teacher.

Last Tuesday, a couple of days before the horde started massing at Edsa, I delivered a speech before the French Business Association of the Philippines that quite fortuitously dealt with the rich and the poor. It may help to shed light on what's happening. It's called "Tongues on fire." Those who are interested may access it at www.inq7.net, the Inquirer Online.

Déjà vu

THE NATION is again in a state of ferment. We have a sense of déjà vu—we are reminded of what happened after Corazon C. Aquino assumed the presidency after the four-day People Power I. Not long after her ascent to Malacañang, Ms Aquino was beset by coup attempts and all sorts of destabilization efforts, including the partly comical takeover of the Manila Hotel.

EDITORIAL

Fifteen years ago, almost to the day, an Aquino supporter was beaten up by Marcos loyalists who were demonstrating in front of the United States Embassy on Roxas Boulevard. Sounds familiar? The pro-Estrada demonstrators, furious over the arrest of Estrada, could not find any anti-Estrada people, and so they beat up, threw stones and bottled water at media people whom they considered enemies.

Rumors about coups swirled during the early days of the Aquino administration, and some rumors did indeed become reality. President Macapagal can expect something similar in the first few months, if not the first year, of her administration. Those who are out of power will always try to get in again.

Other things are happening today. The event that sparked what the pro-Estrada forces call "Edsa III" was the arrest and detention of deposed President Joseph Estrada. It appears now, on hindsight, that the Macapagal administration should have heeded the advice of some politically experienced people and postponed Estrada's arrest until after the elections. It is easier to deal with problems one at a time.

It doesn't take much intelligence to predict that the pro-Estrada people would seize upon his arrest and detention as an issue on which it would figuratively and literally do battle with the administration forces. Estrada himself, ever the movie actor, played the role of the underdog well.

But what's done is done, and the problem now is, firstly, how to restore national stability and security, and secondly, how to ensure the political future of the administration and the victory of its candidates in the coming elections. The opposition senatorial candidates had been using the Edsa demonstrations as a free venue for projecting themselves to the electorate.

Passions are running high and the administration cannot take measures which can be interpreted as further repressing or oppressing the neglected, underprivileged, disadvantaged poor. The rich-versus-poor rhetoric is taking effect, and emotion and not reason rules the crowd at the Edsa Shrine.

The poor do have legitimate grievances. These grievances have their roots in decades, if not centuries of neglect and apathy. The poor used "Edsa III" to ventilate their complaints against the rich and the powerful to a nationwide audience. They do have some valid complaints, but the trouble is that demagogues and rabble rousers are exploiting them and inciting them to rise up against the Macapagal administration.

Several times in the past few four days, candidates and leaders of the opposition, using incendiary and sometimes seditious language, tried to whip up the crowd to a frenzy. Some of them went as far as to call for an attack on Malacañang and for the removal of President Macapagal. It's a good thing that some of the opposition leaders remained cool-headed and counseled moderation and sobriety.

It's somewhat comforting to know that there are still moderate, sober people left in the opposition ranks. The situation was very volatile and just one incident could have touched off a confrontation or rioting, or worse, a civil war.

The last thing this country needs is a violent upheaval. A civil war will certainly result in huge casualties and write off the Philippines as the basket case of Asia. We thus call for calm and sobriety in these troubled times. The appeal is addressed to all the leaders and the people of this nation, but particularly to the candidates of the opposition. Some may have to take a high profile for better exposure, but this is not a time for demagoguery or rabble-rousing. Think of your nation, your people, your children. Think of our future. We cannot have blood flowing in the streets.

I remember a biology professor in school, a German, who managed to antagonize the students in ways no other teacher did. He became famous, or notorious, for shouting at students who were inattentive or did poorly in class. At one point, one student reported him to school authorities for smacking him in the head while he was looking at a microscope—he had his left eye closed—which caused a bruise in his right eye. The protest against the professor mounted as his ferocity grew, and the fact that he was a foreigner—this German especially made his students see the face of the Holocaust—did not help his cause. It was all the school could do to keep him.

The professor could not for the life of him understand the animosity. He knew biology like the palm of his hand and thought himself the best person to teach it. Aware of the importance of the subject, he was determined to impart his knowledge of it to Third World students in particular, to enable them to raise their country to First World standards. Biology was not an easy subject, he said, which was why he was determined to make his students work hard to learn it. To go easy on them was not to do them a favor, it was to do them a disservice.

He was transferred anyway. The authorities ruled that with his teaching methods, the students were not bound to learn anything. Indeed, they were bound to learn the wrong lessons: lessons in oppression. He had forgotten the most basic rule of teaching, which was, how you teach is just as important as what you teach.

I remembered that professor last Wednesday. The government had very important lessons to teach, ones that should have raised this country from a banana republic to a respectable country, if not a First World one. Finally, we were going to do something about corruption in public office. Finally, we were not going to allow anyone in this country, no matter how high up he went, to escape justice. Finally, we were going to give the same treatment to rich and poor alike. Finally, we were not going to make crime a matter of popularity, or allow criminals to dodge punishment by public acclamation. Finally, we were not going to allow the elections to become the refuge of crooks and murderers.

These were very powerful lessons, but how to teach them?

I at least had a sense about how not to go about it. Which was to arrest Erap before the elections. I did warn that that message would be lost in a blaze of static, that lesson would be lost in a mountain of bad pedagogy. Quite apart from the fact that it would give the Puwersa ng Masa a platform for their cam-

Rift between opposition moderates and militants

THERE'S an interesting development in the Estrada camp at Edsa. The key Estrada leaders appear to have split up between the hawks and the doves, the militants and the moderates, over the issue of how to handle questions like, Should the loyalists storm Malacañang or not? Should they foment civil war or not? The split was foreshadowed by the removal of Ronald Lumbao, head of Erap's urban poor crowd, from the task of coordinating the Edsa happening. Lumbao is said to be quite upset over his ouster. The moderates and the militants were said to have had a sharp confrontation last Sunday evening.

The moderates include Loi Ejercito, who advised the Edsa crowds to stay put, contrary to Miriam Santiago's demagogic "lusb" order. Also a moderate is Guia Gomez's son, JV Ejercito, who doesn't want an escalation of the confrontation that might result in a postponement of the elections, since he is confident of winning as mayor of San Juan. Also with the moderates are Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates Dong Puno and Edgardo Angara, and Makati Rep. Butz Aquino, who claims to have touched base with elements of the Macapagal group over "solutions." Angara is also confident of winning, so no postponement of the elections for him.

Among the hawks are the irascible Santiago, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan; Ping Lacson, and former senators Eva Kalaw and Ernesto Maceda. The hawks are said to want to escalate the conflict so that the elections would be postponed. Why? Because Santiago, Enrile and Honasan are in the "danger zone," where they could be victims of *dagdag-bawas*, perhaps at the hands of their own colleagues.

The rift among the key Erap leaders, plus the reported pullout of support of the Iglesia ni Kristo yesterday, may doom the Erap movement.

During a recent PTV-4 talk co-hosted by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Alex Magno, many of the queries concerned citizens' anxieties over reports that their pension funds could be affected by the involvement of SSS and GSIS in questionable deals during the Estrada administration. *Meron pa ba kumang maasahang pension* in our old age, when we retire? was the query repeatedly raised by ordinary employees feeling the pinch of SSS and GSIS monthly deductions. These are part of the *masa* who suffered the effects of the abuses of presidential power during the Estrada administration.

It was revealed by the coordinator of the private

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



prosecutors in the Estrada cases, lawyer Ricardo Nepomuceno, that about P8 billion in SSS funds were diverted by Estrada to purchase shares of stock from his cronies' firms, and that Estrada earned from one transaction alone a commission of P189 million. Former SSS administrator and now PSBank president Renato Valencia, who was also a guest, explained that the SSS charter prohibits hehest loans and that while private investments are allowed, there is a board process that protects its funds from misuse. Clearly the SSS transactions on Estrada's orders were done without board action.

Valencia also pointed out that the pension funds have a safe threshold of "actuarial life," which is anywhere from 50 to 70 years and that when he left the SSS the actuarial life was about 40 to 50 years. Today, it is only 15 years. Valencia said this is "too short" and he attributed it not only to the faulty investments caused by Estrada's orders, but also the small contribution rate of SSS members and the longer life expectancy today.

One guest observed rightly that Estrada's orders to fund certain crony investments from SSS funds was a "reverse subsidy," with the money of the poor being taken to buy into the company of the ultra rich. A reverse Robin Hood, in other words.

A number of active military officers and retirees called up this column to react to my assertion that the claim of Senators Enrile, Honasan and Santiago that military people are defecting in droves to Estrada's side is a grave injustice to the military. I had said, *mayadong namang minamaliit nila ang mga military*, making it appear that they are unable to distinguish between what is a valid moral issue and what is not. I pointed out that Edsa I and II involved moral issues in ousting corrupt and immoral leaders, whereas what Enrile and company are passing off as "Edsa III" involves returning a disgraced president to power or installing a junta that will put them at its head. My

military callers stressed that they won't put their careers on the line for a disgraced president or a junta of ambitious leaders who are perennial coup plotters.

Macapagal officials asserted that the military remains loyal to the Constitution and the government, but it cannot pool-pool the frantic courting of officers and soldiers by Honasan and Lacson. Honasan was in Sangley Point last Sunday talking to the soldiers and officers, while Lacson had his own pow-wow at his female friend's house in Valle Verde IV in Pasig. The recruitment of soldiers is at P5,000 per head. *Mayadong mura naman. Malilit talaga ang tingin sa sandala.*

A lawyer points out that the recent pronouncements of Santiago and Enrile inciting people to storm Malacañang could make them guilty of sedition. The remarks of Santiago are certainly more seditious, but being charged with sedition is part of their game plan. It would boost their sagging senatorial campaign. I have watched Santiago on TV in recent days, especially when she declared that she lied when she promised to jump off a plane without a parachute if Estrada were to be arrested, followed with a demonic laugh. I must confess that what came into my mind as I listened to her was that these were the actions of someone who had gone loco.

Is it a *hakot* crowd at Edsa? Definitely there are people there with legitimate grievances against the government which has failed to alleviate their misery either because of wanton corruption, as in Estrada's case, or simply because it lacks funds to make a dramatic change, like the incumbent administration. But a large part of the crowds are definitely *hakot* not just by politicians from neighboring provinces, but also from Mindanao, courtesy of loyalists such as Misamis Gov. Vicente Emano. Two boatloads of people were recently shipped to Edsa from Davao. Also some Caviteños were heard loudly complaining that Erap loyalist, Rep. Ayong Maliksi (Whatever happened to this man? He used to be so *matino*) trucked them to Edsa on the promise that they would get from P300 to P500 each with free food, but they ended up with a measly P100.

Funding that Edsa crowd is estimated to run up to about P10 million a day, and talk is that it's Loi Ejercito who is releasing the money while the food brigade is manned by the people of Guia Gomez and Laarni Enriquez. Still all in the family.

Leadership

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



outpouring of emotion.

But at the end of the interview, Angara again reiterated his "wish" that the media, especially the major networks, give more extensive coverage to the Edsa Shrine event than they have been giving. "No one will hurt you, I give you my assurance," he declared. But if the people there don't recognize any leader, then of what worth is that assurance?

I do think Angara was telling the truth about there being no leader (or ringleader?) at the Edsa Shrine. If by leader one means someone who takes responsibility for the actions of followers, then there is certainly no leadership to speak of since all the "personalities" have been stumbling all over themselves to distance themselves from the unruly elements in the crowd.

But if you dare claim the right to mount the Edsa Shrine ledge and address the multitude, you also bear a huge responsibility for all the emotions you whip up among them, and for the consequences of your words.

AMONG those who addressed the crowd at the Edsa Shrine was former senator and now independent senatorial candidate Santanina Rasul. A Lakas "orig," Rasul was forced to run on her own and agree to join the Puwersa ng Masa as a guest candidate after she was left out of the People Power Coalition.

Still, it was a jarring sight, considering that the people she was addressing were there to defend the former president, who had declared an all-out war against the MILF (even as they were sitting down to discuss a peace agreement) and

fanned the flames of anti-Muslim sentiment to drum up popular support for the conflict. "How could you stand up there and defend him?" I asked her. "But I didn't defend him," the senator replied. "When I speak at Puwersa ng Masa rallies, I only talk about the need to have a representative from Mindanao in the Senate, and to have someone who will also be a voice for the Muslim community."

This, she said, is the only reason she chose to push through with her "foolhardy" quest. "I decided to file my candidacy anyway because I didn't want it said that no one from Mindanao cared enough to take the risk and run for the Senate."

RASUL claimed that she had been assured of a place in the administration ticket from the beginning. "I'd like you to be in the ticket," she quoted the president as telling her, "because I won't have such a big problem because you already represent women, Mindanao and Muslims." Meeting with Lakas president, Vice President Tito Guingona a few days before the ticket was formed, Rasul said the VP assured her that she had a "99-percent chance" of joining the PPC. "I don't know what happened," Rasul confessed. "Tito called me up only at midnight of the day before the deadline for filing candidacies. 'I'm sorry to say that you aren't in the ticket, but it's not the end of the world,' he told me. What did he mean by that?"

Whatever he meant, it wasn't the end of Santanina Rasul's political quest, even if this time her daughter jokes that "you are using up our inheritance on this campaign."

It's been a rough road, she admits, and she is the first to recognize just how awkward her situation is. By heart, inclination and maybe even principles, she feels more comfortable among those in the "rival" camp. But it is a camp that left her out in the cold.

For your consideration, then: former Sen. Santanina Rasul, educator, environmentalist and champion of women, Muslims and Mindanao.

Mehan Garden

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



to have stood until the turn of the 19th century.

For a number of years, the area was vacant but eventually toward the middle of the century a cigar factory and a military hospital were built. A street of the same name parallel to Concepcion commemorates the hospital where a chapel once stood, as shown in early 20th century photographs. By the latter part of the century the area also housed military barracks, Teatro del Rey and a slaughterhouse.

The Jardin Botanico was established in the 1860s on the site called Sitio de Arroceros, which was first developed in the late 18th century into a conduit through which water would flood the area, as a moat-like protection for Intramuros. The *estero* disappeared in the late 19th century when the present road that more or less follows the ancient path of the waterway was built. (Thanks to then Mayor Alfredo Lim, Arroceros is now named after the late former Mayor Antonio Villegas.) A corner of the Jardin Botanico also used to house the first school for arts and trades in the country.

This is the historic area that will soon be overwhelmed by the city mayor's edifice complex. If you pass by Taft Avenue these days, you will notice that a wall of galvanized iron sheets encircles Mehan Garden. Apparently the mayor has gone ahead with his plan to construct the City College building on the site. The former GSIS building behind City Hall that was suitable for the Hall of Justice as the mayor himself pointed out before destroying the Jai-Alai Building could just as well be

used as a college. (One can't help but wonder about the mayor's obsession with construction.)

In the meantime, Dr. Pablo Trillana of the National Historical Institute has written the mayor a polite letter reminding him of the historical significance of the site, having sent the City Planning Office a historical background two years ago. (So it's not like the mayor doesn't know what he's doing.) Trillana feels that "green spaces like Mehan Garden should be respected and maintained as part of Manila's historic-cultural heritage. Not only do these green spaces add historical character to the city but they also enhance Manila's qualities as a livable and ecology-friendly metropolis."

The polite letter was written April 2 and, by the looks of the construction, promptly dumped into the wastebasket. The NHI also wrote the mayor protesting the demolition of the Jai-Alai Building last year and we all know what happened next.

It is a pity because Trillana mentions that one of the global concerns (as though our small-town politicians give two figs about the rest of the world) is "the growing disappearance of historical patterns in towns and cities in the face of progress and development. Together with Manila's historic parks, plazas and open spaces, the Jardin Botanico or Mehan Garden belongs to Manila's rich cultural history, and thus, every effort should be made to preserve it."

Pity that the National Museum hasn't bothered to join the protest (there should have been archaeological excavations undertaken first), but we of the Committee of Monuments and Sites of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts not only agree with the NHI's assessment that Manila is loosing all its open spaces but, worse, its historical sites and landmarks. We can only hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo realizes the disasters going on in Manila including more new illegal constructions in Intramuros and puts a stop to them.

People

COMMUTING around Metro Manila is tough, even when you're young. But I guess there are some benefits. I get a lot of exercise, since I go to many parts of the city on foot. And better yet, I get an education of sorts. I learn about all kinds of people.

It's inevitable that I stumble upon a lot of curious characters, especially the ubiquitous vagrants. I was once shouted at by an insane man as I picked my way through a wet market.

Most of my encounters were quite tame, though. There was this man whom I used to see under the LRT line along Taft Avenue a couple of years ago.

His hair was long and shaggy. He had a thick moustache but not much of a beard and he always wore the same yellow shirt, which was filthy, of course, like the rest of him. I probably wouldn't have taken an interest in him if I didn't see him at one time mending a pair of shorts. I couldn't help but wonder where he got the needle and thread.

Another time, I saw him writing on a battered primary school pad, the kind with red and blue lines, using a well-bitten pencil. The next day I saw him again, bending over the pad obviously in deep concentration.

I have often wondered about him. Were I not a cautious person, I would have tried to speak to him, to ask him the questions that were always on my mind: how did he live? I had never seen him begging or trying to peddle anything. Was he literate? What was he writing, or was he simply trying to learn to write? And why was he on Taft?

He could have been a tragic starving artist, or someone who was determined to better his condition, no matter how hopeless it seemed. All I knew was that there was a certain dignity about him, which was uncommon among vagrants. Although he had nothing, he was concerned with things other than survival. At any rate, I don't remember seeing him lately.

Another peculiar fellow was the one I used to see every time I visited my aunt's house near Banawe Street in Quezon City. His hair was white and he always had a smile on his face. He walked around waving a hat. The hat was replaced periodically by a newer-looking one. I could imagine him buying a new hat every time he got enough money.

Now I don't see him there anymore. Perhaps he has collected enough money for what endeavor he was saving.

Another vagrant who caught my attention was a woman, who was heavy with child and carrying a toddler. She used to walk around the Cultural Center of the Philippines. I was struck by how desperate she seemed at first, but while waiting to cross the street, she played with her little one and they were both smiling.

While I'd advise people like her to practice birth control, it touched me in a way I can't explain. I would have given her the few pesos she was begging for, but I had run out of change.

This reminds me of another encounter with a pregnant woman. This time she wasn't walking on the streets. I was on an FX stuck in traffic along E. Rodriguez Avenue when a heavily pregnant woman got on board. Everyone looked at her with concern. We could see the contractions of her stomach.

The driver was at first annoyed, especially when she asked what was the stop nearest the Pasig Hospital. The FX was going to Cubao. "Take a taxi," he told, handing back the P10 she had paid for her fare.

She showed us all the money she had—all of P17. She explained that the people at a government hospital in Quezon City had asked her to come up with P300 before they attended to her. She didn't have enough so she was going to the hospital in Pasig since she had relatives who could take care of her there. She had no one else to turn to, she said, because her husband died only two weeks earlier, leaving her to take care of their two children, 5 and 2 years old, as well as the imminent arrival.

Everyone got involved in her dilemma. The woman beside me explained how she could get to Pasig. I offered to take her in a cab once we got to Edsa since I was on my way to Ortigas anyway. Then a man seated on the back seat handed her P200 and told her to get a taxi. I took out my last P100 bill, leaving just enough money for me to get to Ortigas, and suggested she go back to the hospital in Quezon City.

She thanked everyone profusely, carefully got out of the FX, and crossed the street unsteadily. The last I saw of her, she was waiting for a jeepney that would take her in the opposite direction.

Understand that I don't just help any waif or vagrant who approaches me—only the ones who have stories so amazing that I don't think they can make them up. A lot of people approach me to ask for money, although I'm far from looking like I am wealthy.

Recently, I stumbled upon two women on the sidewalk who didn't look like beggars. They were sitting on newspapers on the sidewalk close to Megamall, begging passersby to give them 50 centavos. Almost everyone ignored them, but my curiosity got the better of me. I asked them directly, "What for?" Though somewhat shabby, they were clearly not homeless. The older woman's white hair was well-kept, her toenails were manicured and she wore a couple of rings—not expensive, to be sure, but if they were that poor, why would she have any jewelry at all? The younger woman wore lipstick, and I wondered if they might be hookers, but no, of course not. They were asking for so little money—just 50 centavos from everyone.

They told me their story. They had taken care of the father of a friend of theirs who was working as a maid in Valle Verde. The man died and they shouldered all the expenses of the funeral as well as his hospital bills. Their friend never sent anything, and now they were looking for her so that they could do some reimbursement for their expenses. The problem was that they didn't have the address or the telephone number of the place where she was working. The subdivision guards were sympathetic but could do nothing to help them. Now, they had spent all their money—and all for nothing. Could I give them 50 centavos? They already had P6.75. They were tired and wanted to go back home to Bulacan.

I took P50 pesos from my wallet and gave it to them. I have been caught in similar situations, but my ATM, credit card, friends and relatives all over the city have always bailed me out. I watched as they went to the bus stop and took the bus out of there.

I wonder about these people I've helped—not whether their stories were true, but how they're doing. I'm a cautious person, as I said, and I never give my name, address or even phone number to strangers. But I'll always be curious about the people I see on the street, and I don't mind if some of them ask me for something once in a while. I am grateful that it's them and not me, and that they ask instead of just taking what they need.

Raissa Claire U. Rivera, 25, plans to enroll for her MA in arts education at the University Philippine this coming school year.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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Desecration of a shrine and of history

WHEN people trooped to Edsa in February 1986 and returned in January, 15 years later, they were on a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a holy journey to a holy place. Pilgrims or the people who go on a pilgrimage seek peace, truth and freedom. They seek spirit. They seek God.

It was this pilgrimage, this holy journey of a people in search of the God of peace, truth and freedom that made Edsa holy. This is the reason Edsa is now both shrine and history.

Edsa as history consists of both human and divine will. The Filipino people's dream of a land without oppression and corruption; a land without greedy and cruel landlords; a land without scavengers, street children and squatters; a land of Filipinos, for Filipinos and by Filipinos is still a dream.

The people came closer to this dream when a dictator fell in 1986 and a corrupt and incompetent president

was ousted in 2001. Toward the two Edsa's the people did not only pray but also worked and sacrificed. Lives were lost but freedom was regained.

The people did not dream alone. A God-fearing and God-loving people knew that God dreamed with them. The two Edsa's were peaceful, thanks to the God of peace. The two Edsa's were prayerful and reverential, thanks to the God of holiness and respect. The two Edsa's were spontaneous and unblemished by the grime and muck of dirty politics and dirty money.

A shrine in Edsa now commemorates this precious story of God and God's people. To this shrine we continue to go as pilgrims in search of self, nation and God. A shrine need not beg for respect and reverence. It is respect and reverence in the shape of holy images and sacred space. An author reminds us: "Shrines make a spirit palpably present; they celebrate rather than explain and generate intimacy be-

LETTERS

tween the human and the more than human... A shrine transfers the holiness of faith and whatever spirit is captured by sacred imagination to a particular place of memory and honor."

This is Edsa, both history and shrine. Today, I express deep sadness at what continues to unfold in a holy place of memory and honor. I cry and shed tears in the depths of my soul as I see both history and shrine desecrated. What began last Wednesday and continues at the Edsa Shrine today is desecration of sacred memory and space.—FR. ROBERT P. REYES, Gomburza

Mockery of the spirit of Edsa II

WE, the leaders of various Christ-centered and Bible-based churches and ministries representing a combined constituency of over seven million nationwide, wish to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the pursuit of truth, justice and righteousness, which are the very foundation for a prosperous, just and peaceful society as declared in Proverbs 14:34—"Righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to any people."

We believe that the arrest and subsequent detention of former President Joseph Estrada is a clear manifestation of the wheels of justice taking its due course. While it pains us to see the former president under detention, we want like the prophet Amos to "let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream."

The Sandiganbayan has already scheduled hearings on plunder case against Estrada and assures him that he will have his day in court.

It is in this light that we view with serious concern the ongoing rally at the Edsa Shrine by the allies of the former president to de-

mand his reinstatement.

While we recognize the constitutional right of every citizen to free speech and assembly, we decry the demand of Erap's allies as without any legal anchor, let alone moral cause, coming as it does from forces that manifest blatant and indecent disregard for the rule of law, reason and order.

It is also a wanton mockery of the spirit of Edsa People Power II which ousted an immoral and corrupt leader. The intention of these forces is clear: to destabilize the legitimate administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Therefore, we call on our constituencies all over the Philippines to be alert and vigilant in the face of these assaults on our government, national stability, the economy and peace. We urge every church, fellowship and ministry to hold prayer vigils and wage spiritual warfare against these forces of darkness and establish the rule of God in our land.

We call on our people who desire to see the fulfillment of God's glorious program for our beloved country to remain calm and sober in these chal-

lenging times and look up to God our "fortress and refuge and ever-present help in trouble." Surely the Lord will deliver us from the works of the evil one and He will destroy and bring to naught the schemes and plans of the enemy.

We also call on our countrymen who are at Edsa: let us allow due process to take its course so that truth, justice and righteousness will prevail. If in the end, the courts of law will vindicate Estrada, we will as one nation rejoice in the triumph of truth and justice. For now, let us freely express our sentiments but within the bounds of decency, order and responsibility.

Finally, we reaffirm our all-out support for President Macapagal and her legitimate administration in obedience to Romans 13 and 1 Timothy 2:1-5. We express our unreserved commitment to the success of her administration because we believe that its success is the success of the whole Filipino people.—BISHOP EDDIE C. VILLANUEVA, chair, Philippines for Jesus Movement, spiritual director, Jesus Is Lord Church

Time for People Power III

I'M amazed at how apathetic people have been in their response to the so-called pro-Erap mobilizations. (I'll explain the "so-called" in a while.) Sure, people complain about the traffic and the continuing decline of stock prices and the peso, but generally people just shrug their shoulders and hope that the crowds at Edsa will eventually disperse.

The apathy may sometimes be due to a certain level of uncertainty. People aren't quite sure where they stand now. Many of them are totally fed up with Philippine politics. The poor especially (yes, there are many more poor who are not at Edsa) can't take time off from work to follow what's going on, much less to join any rally, pro or anti-Erap.

There are those who did join People Power II but who don't quite believe that to be anti-Erap you have to be pro-Macapagal. Some are quite disgusted, actually, with the first 100 days, especially with the holier-than-thou attitude of the elite Catholic circles who have formed a cordon sanitaire around Ms Macapagal, too busy pontificating and moralizing rather than addressing concrete issues.

Surprisingly, you also find apathy among the most rabid pro-Macapagal supporters. These are the ones who are in denial. Typically elitist, they say the rallyers' numbers are small and inconsequential, that these are the ignorant poor, paid hacks who will go home when the money runs out.

It's depressing. Someone asked me the other day what it is about our national karma that we have to go through all this. Another said the choice is between the devil and the deep blue sea, and I leave it to readers to figure out who is which.

I agree, in some ways, that we don't really have too much of a choice. But for all the reservations I have about the Macapagal administration, I don't see the so-called pro-Erap camp as an alternative at all. I said "so-

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



called" because it's so clear that even Erap is being used in this whole affair. I think that man's main concern is to stay out of jail, or to at least get more comfortable quarters. But the so-called pro-Erap camp's leaders, especially the likes of Enrile, Honasan and Santiago, have a different agenda. They don't want Erap back as president. What they want is to take over the Philippines, and I cannot imagine anything more disastrous.

I was beginning to believe Enrile and company were just a bunch of noisy but harmless political has-beens. Listening to them at Edsa convinces me that these politicians are much more dangerous. If these people come into power, we will see a return to Marcos-era governance, rule by terror and force. These men and women want blood spilled, and will spill more blood if they take over, even as they perpetuate Erap's politics of plunder.

As a media practitioner, I am particularly worried about what will happen to the press and to all our information institutions if these power-hungry lunatics take over. We actually had a preview, courtesy of the so-called Edsa III rally, in the harassment of mass media people. I was even more alarmed with the massive group-think exercise at Edsa. In between bad songs and even worse dancing by starlets, speaker after speaker agitated the audience with misinformation about the maltreatment of Erap, about negotiations with Ms Macapagal and how she was going to give in soon, about massive defections in the military. Mad Santiago screamed and cursed with such vicious intensity that even the Iglesia ni Cristo radio and TV network had to censor her out.

The intention was clear: to keep the crowds incensed, and to keep them from going home. The whole

of Sunday night and into Monday, the speakers were telling the crowds to stay on and to prepare to march to Malacañang because victory was at hand.

I can't understand how the Iglesia ni Cristo leaders can allow their church to be used in this mass fraud. Their newscasts brought too much of déjà vu, a feeling we were back into the Marcos era with its manufactured news. Just this morning for example, one of the Iglesia newscasts claimed that the Department of Health had sent in people with leprosy—the newscaster emphasized that the disease is highly infectious, which it is not—to spread the disease among the rallyers.

The greatest crime being perpetuated in this whole Edsa III farce is the way people—the poor and the middle class, adults and children—are being used. I have good reason to believe many of the rallyers, especially the INC faithful, are not being paid, and I'm not sure that's any worse than the practice of *hukot*. We're talking here about people carted in to chant pro-Erap and anti-Macapagal mantras, being readied as cannon fodder if the need rises.

No, the choice is not between the devil and the deep blue sea, between Erap and Ms Macapagal. On May 1 and the days after, into election day and after, we need to be more active in defending democracy in the streets, in the voting booth, in our homes, schools and offices. Expect an initial show of force on May 1 from those who do care, including the many poor people who knew, from the very beginning (even earlier than the upper classes and the so-called educated) that Erap and his paid hacks in the Puwersa ng Masa have never been and will never be pro-God, pro-Constitution, pro-poor or pro-Filipino. Forget Edsa III; it's time for People Power III.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Tagalog version for 'masa's' understanding

YOUR editorial April 27, 2001 titled "What rights?" should be translated into Tagalog for the information and better understanding of pro-Erap groups who are holding rallies at Edsa Shrine. These groups are fighting for a bad cause or probably no cause at all. As a lawyer, I cannot understand why Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Dong Puno are

corroborating the stupid thinking of the misguided rallyers to the extent of making statements unbecoming of a lawyer who claims to be a Harvard graduate and a law practitioner, respectively.

A Tagalog version of the April 27 editorial will help open the minds of those misguided followers of the de-

posed president. It's a pity that they cannot appreciate the wrongdoings of the former president in spite of the recent impeachment proceedings. I can attribute their misconception to lack of understanding of the issues which are generally expressed or written in English.—DOMINGO P. PEREZ II, Makati City



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Parliament moves closer to Wahid censure



LAUGHING THEIR WAY TO HEALTH

Members of the Laughing Club laugh during a morning training session in Calcutta, April 30. Doctors say laughter is beneficial as it relaxes muscles and helps to combat stress. There are 450 members of the Laughing Club.

REUTERS

JAKARTA—Indonesia's parliament yesterday appeared set to censure President Abdurrahman Wahid for a second time as speaker after speaker rejected his leadership at a tightly guarded debate.

By lunchbreak, the three largest factions of the lower house had all endorsed a call for a second censure motion against the embattled president, virtually ensuring its passage and moving him closer to possible impeachment.

The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP), the Golkar Party and the United Development Party (PPP), which hold a majority in the 500-seat house, urged parliament to censure Wahid again, saying he had failed to respond adequately to the first rebuke issued in February.

The fourth largest party, the National Awakening Party (PKB) which counts Wahid as one of its patrons, was the only one that rejected the move.

Tensions have been running high amid Wahid's high-stakes battle with parliament, and some 6,000 supporters from towns across Java rallied yesterday warning of bloodshed if he is ousted.

They tried to march from the central National Monument Square to the parliament some 11 km away, but halted their march after negotiations with a barrage of armed policemen blocking the main thoroughfare.

Amid fears of a violence from Wahid's grassroots supporters, security was tight with police saying about 9,000 soldiers and policemen were deployed in and around the parliamentary complex.

The practically-blind Wahid, 60, who is Indonesia's first democratically-elected president, has insisted he intends to serve out the rest of his term until 2004, and warned of a mass uprising if he is prevented.

His opponents blame him for incompetence in failing to carry out speedy reforms or rescue the country from its economic crisis amid widespread communal unrest.

Neither Wahid, nor his hugely-popular vice president, Megawati Sukarnoputri, who heads the largest political faction, the PDIP, attended the debate at the People's Representative Council (DPR).

But PDIP representative, Dwirita Latifa, called on the DPR "to issue a second memorandum against the president, for his consideration."

"In the observation of PDIP of the past three months, we deem the president has not been serious in considering the warnings of the council as contained in the first memorandum," she said.

The DPR first censured Wahid in February over allegations that he was involved in two financial scandals. Wahid, who has maintained innocence, replied to the censure on March 28.

The six remaining political factions were to speak later Monday before the DPR decides, by acclaim or by vote, whether to accept the president's response.

If unsatisfactory, the DPR could issue Wahid with a second censure memorandum to which he would have one month to respond.

Another unsatisfactory response would allow the DPR to call a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) to demand the president's accountability, that would be tantamount to impeachment.

But PDIP deputy chair, Roy Jannis, said a second censure would not automatically lead to a special session of the national assembly.

"Not yet. We have given him one month to improve his performance, so it is up to the president," Jannis said.

Most of the 462 MPs who attended Monday's session traveled in escorted buses from the MPs housing complex to the parliament.

Incoming cars passed through police lines, rows of razor wire and a high, water-filled fiberglass wall, and were meticulously checked for bombs by members of a police bomb-squad.

Identity checks and bag searches were carried out as police dogs patrolled the sprawling complex and a police helicopter hovered overhead.

The 700-strong MPR, the country's highest law-making body, is made up of the members of the DPR, and regional as well as non-political group representatives.

AFP

IMF urges action on AIDS

WASHINGTON—World finance leaders recognized for the first time there was a "need for global action" in the fight against AIDS and other infectious diseases. But the United States has reservations about whether such an effort can succeed.

The finance ministers and central bank governors also agreed at their weekend meetings to look for an improved early warning system to prevent future financial crises and voiced optimism that the current global economic slowdown will not be an extended one.

Britain's chancellor of the exchequer Gordon Brown, who is also chair of the International Monetary Fund's policy-setting group, said Sunday that the exact amount of money needed for the new health effort has yet to be determined. It is expected to be in the billions of dollars.

Communiqué

The IMF group's communiqué said it welcomed the cooperation of the fund and its sister institution, the World Bank, on "the need for global action on health to address diseases such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic."

Brown said this weekend's communiqués were the first reference to the need for an effort to combat AIDS and diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

He said that agreement on the effort was likely to be reached at the annual economic summit of the United States and six other major industrialized nations in Genoa, Italy, in July.

A senior US Treasury official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said the Bush administration was interested in the proposal but wanted to make sure such an effort would "accomplish real change for real people" in countries where these diseases are prevalent.

In Africa, for example, he wondered whether health systems had the capability to administer retroviral drugs to AIDS patients on a daily basis.

Talks on the health initiative, expanding basic education programs in poor countries and qualifying more of these nations for debt relief will continue Monday as ministers from the 24-nation Development Committee hold sessions at the World Bank.

IMF Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer said a \$10-billion financial rescue package for Turkey also could be announced as soon as Monday with support for Argentina coming "a day or two later."

AP



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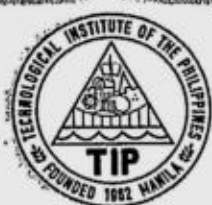
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TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2001 A 13

Macedonia to demand US support vs rebels

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Macedonia's president said he will demand "strong support" from the United States for his government's fight against ethnic Albanian insurgents who killed eight government commandos over the weekend.

President Boris Trajkovski, who was traveling Monday to Washington, pledged Sunday to show "no mercy" in government efforts to root out the Albanian militants responsible for the killings.

Because of the violence, Trajkovski was to cut short a planned visit to Romania yesterday, flying from Bucharest directly to Washington later in the day.

Trajkovski's US trip was agreed on during US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to Macedonia earlier this month. Powell expressed support for Trajkovski's government and urged the ethnic Albanians to negotiate on their differences with the Macedonian authorities.

Trajkovski said that he would demand "strong support of the American administration for a complete and lasting defeat of the terrorist groups in Macedonia."

The attack Saturday near the border with Kosovo was the single most deadly incident since clashes between government troops and ethnic Albanian militants flared in February. Government spokesperson Antonio Milososki said that the commandos were shot in the head and that they stabbed by the militants after the attack to ensure they were dead. AP

Countries turn away Afghan refugees

HERAT, Afghanistan—Tens of thousands of anguished Afghans, whose lives have been ruined by drought and war, are being turned away by neighboring countries or forcibly returned home to an inhospitable land where half a million people are refugees.

The United Nations is warning that the result will be catastrophic.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers, who was to visit Afghanistan later Monday, was making the tortuous three-hour road journey from the Iranian border to Herat in western Afghanistan, stopping at the makeshift Safed Sang camp in Iran to see the plight of Afghan refugees there.

Most of those at the Safed Sang camp are likely to be deported.

So far this year the Iranian government has deported 20,000 Afghan refugees, said Hans-Christian Poulsen, UN regional coordination officer in western Herat.

Squalor

Pakistan has refused to allow an additional 80,000 Afghans living in squalor in Jalozai Refugee Camp in its remote northwest to be registered as refugees and assisted.

On Afghanistan's border with northern Tajikistan 10,000 people are living in a dried riverbed, refused entry to the Central Asian state. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also have sealed their borders.

And inside Afghanistan where nearly half a million are living as refugees, the United Nations, as well as most other international aid organizations, are warning of a catastrophe.

The culprit is a horrific drought that has destroyed most crops in this war-ravaged country, killed off entire herds and sent millions of people on the move in search of food and water.

And conditions are only deteriorating.

Last year Afghanistan endured the most severe drought in living memory and the supply of water is even smaller this year, said Poulsen. "It's just going from bad to worse."

Poulsen says the international community could do more.

"Definitely with more funds and with the wheat that is available around the world we could feed these people. It's just a question of will," he said.

The UNHCR says Afghanistan's neighbors are shirking their humanitarian responsibility. AP

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Across the **NATION**

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Low-flying VFA jets, choppers sow fear

ANGELES CITY—Fear gripped some residents here Monday when several helicopters and planes participating in military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement flew low over this city of more than 300,000 people.

The residents, in telephone calls and text messages to the INQUIRER, reported seeing two helicopters flying low from the south to the direction of the Clark International Airport located north of this city.

Some 45 minutes later, a small plane, which a former base worker said fits the description of a two-seater AH4 Cobra Attack helicopter, hovered in the area.

Shortly after, several C-130 planes that residents said they used to see when the US 13th Air Force operated in Clark circled the Balibago area, the nearest village to Clark.

All the aircraft, residents said, flew to the direction of Clark where some 1,400 American troops and 2,600 Filipino soldiers have been holding Balikatan-01, a large-scale exercise, since April 27. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PAMPANGA AMBUSH**2 more dead in poll killings**

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two persons were killed while five other supporters of a Lakas-NUCD councilor were hurt after they were ambushed in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, on Monday, reports reaching the regional police here said.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police director, said the suspects opened fire just as Councilor Naradel Monsalud and her supporters, in a convoy of three cars, were leaving Barangay San Agustin at 12:30 a.m. Monday.

Sergio Lucas, Monsalud's driver, died of bullet wounds while Imelda Romero, a campaign staff member, died of a heart attack during the assault, Galang said.

He said the reports did not indicate whether Monsalud was hurt in the ambush.

Other reports, however, indicated that Monsalud was not in the convoy as she was left in the village with Vice Mayor Sofronio Castellano.

Police reports identified those wounded as Teresita Salmo, Randy Salinas, Maricel Baldomino, Lourdes Antolin and Demetrio Gonzales, all supporters of Monsalud.

Investigators found spent shells of M-16 and M-14 rifles at the crime scene.

The suspects, Galang said, carried out the ambush in a non-populated and dark stretch of the village's road minutes after Monsalud and her supporters concluded their campaign sortie.

Galang said investigators from the Nueva Ecija police were still determining if Monsalud was indeed the target of the ambush and if the incident was election-related.

He did not rule out the possible involvement of communist rebels or her political rivals in the ambush.

But he said Monsalud, a former teacher and who is seeking reelection, is "not a controversial figure."

If the ambush was proven to be election-related, Galang said the vil-

lage might be included in the list of Central Luzon's election hotspots.

Police have monitored at least four election-related incidents in the region in this year's election period, reports showed.

At least 147 civilians, three military personnel and a policeman violated the election gun ban, reports released by Camp Olivares to the INQUIRER showed.

Checkpoints established in about 150 towns and cities in the region and Aurora province seized at least 31 high-powered firearms, 100 short firearms, three airguns and six hand grenades and 488 assorted live bullets, all of which were not covered by Comelec exemptions, reports said.

In Albay, slain mayoral candidate Florencio Muñoz, who had been Camalig mayor for at least 25 years, will be buried today at the town's Catholic cemetery.

Despite an admission by the New People's Army, however, his family did not believe the rebels were re-

sponsible for the killing.

Dr. Rommel Muñoz, son of the victim, said the family believed the killing was political.

The elder Muñoz was shot dead Friday night, after delivering a campaign speech in Barangay Bariw, Camalig, Albay.

On Sunday morning the NPA's Santos Binamira Command issued a press statement signed by a certain Florente Orobio, admitting responsibility for the killing of Muñoz.

The press release said Muñoz had conspired with some local officials to make operational the Taiwanese firm Goodfound Cement factory in Barangay Palanog.

The younger Muñoz, however, said that if this was really the reason why his father was killed, he should have been killed a long time ago.

"The victim was campaigning in villages believed to be controlled by the rebels but nothing happened to him," the young Muñoz said.

"I also wonder why the press

statement of (the) NPA came out immediately," he added.

He said normally the NPA would issue a press statement admitting or denying any killing weeks or even months after the crime.

"Anybody can do that and affix a name he wants (referring to a press release)," he said.

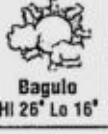
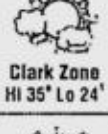
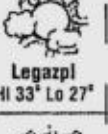
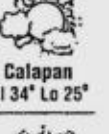
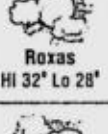
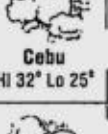
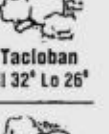
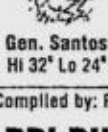
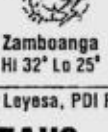
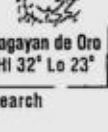
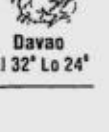
The young Muñoz said the Palanog cement factory issue was controversial in 1998 but his father had not received any threats from the rebels that time.

"Now we are being harassed. We requested the Commission on Elections to send us police security. We fear the suspects want us all in the family (dead)," the young Muñoz said.

Muñoz was running opposite incumbent vice mayor candidate John Villanueva when he was killed. *Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

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Stench betrays unburied bodies

MATI, Davao Oriental—Complaining about the stench in the air, residents of Sitio Spur Dos, Barangay Aliwagwag in Cateel town have asked the Army's 30th Special Forces Company to help them locate the bodies of suspected New People's Army rebels killed in a clash on March 31.

But Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion based in Mati, said it was "impossible" for his men to locate the bodies as Barangay Aliwagwag is a known stronghold of the rebels.

"It may take another (military) operation before we could retrieve the... bodies of the rebels in that hinterland barangay. We can hardly get into that place because it is an NPA stronghold," Gopico said.

He said four NPA rebels were killed in an encounter with Army troops in Sitio Spur Dos last month. A soldier was killed while two others were wounded in that clash.

But Gopico said a number of residents of Barangay Aliwagwag are now afraid to return to their homes for fear of being hunted by the rebels for informing government troops of the rebels' presence in the area.

He said the rebels set up its general headquarters for Mindanao in Sitio Spur Dos. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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BY JOEL JABAL

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—Mindoro people are willing to "campaign hard" for People Power Coalition candidates if Malacañang would cancel the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has granted to a Canadian mining firm.

This was the assurance given by Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia, Liberal Party chief for Oriental Mindoro and PPC provincial chair here.

"Rest assured that the people of Oriental Mindoro will recognize

and reciprocate the support you have extended in our fight against the mining project. We will campaign hard to ensure the victory of the PPC senatorial candidates in the May 14 elections," said Valencia in a two-page letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Valencia wrote the letter to thank Ms Arroyo for her administration's "prompt and expeditious action" on the Mindoro folk's request to cancel the MPSA that former Environment Secretary Antonio H. Cerilles had granted to the Aglubang Mining Corp. (AMC) in December.

The MPSA covers more than

9,000 hectares and is good until 2025.

Early this month, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez found "sufficient grounds" to revoke the MPSA.

Alvarez cited "legal infirmities" and "other violations of existing (DENR) laws and regulations" to merit the cancellation of the MPSA. These include:

The mining site on 9,720 hectares of a mountainous portion of Barangay Villa Cerveza, in Victoria town, includes within its boundaries protected watersheds, which is prohibited under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

The MPSA was not approved by the concerned local government councils and has no environmental impact assessment (EIA).

There is no social acceptability for the mining operation as this cannot be secured through a signature campaign.

The permit holder, the Aglubang Mining Corporation, has no proven track record as required under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

The memorandum of agreement between the Aglubang Mining and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) may be annulled in the event of fraud or deceit.

There are environmental risks, which have not yet been addressed by Aglubang despite the issuance of the MPSA.

Among the risks cited are increased erosion and sediment yield, loss of forest habitat, and possible destruction of fishery resources from mine tailings.

Valencia told a meeting of Oriental Mindoro mayors on Saturday that Ms Arroyo had assured him during a telephone conversation that the Palace would cancel the MPSA as soon as Alvarez has completed the paper work needed.

All the 15 mayors here oppose the mining project.

Bet woos voters with 'pandesal'

APALIT, Pampanga—Instead of wreaths of flowers, a candidate for councilor here gives away *pandesal* during wakes for those who recently died here to woo voters.

Because of his free *pandesal*, reelectionist Councilor Bonifacio Dalusung has become known here as "Mr. Pandesal."

Dalusung, who owns a bakery here, said that he is happy when he sees people enjoying his *pandesal*, especially during wakes.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Elections has yet to decide on the electoral disputes in the towns of Mabalacat, Sasmuan and San Luis.

Last month, the regional trial court in Angeles City declared that businessman Anthony Dee won by a margin of 2,584 votes over Mayor Marino Morales in the 1998 elections.

Morales filed a motion for reconsideration before the Comelec while Dee asked the court to issue a writ of execution.

Also last month, the Comelec ordered Mayor Catalina Bagasina of Sasmuan and Mayor Jason Sagum of San Luis to vacate their respective posts.

The poll body ruled that Fernando Baltazar won over Bagasina by 150 votes while Jovito Bondoc won over Sagum by 18 votes during the 1998 elections. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

'RJ' lashes back at rival, decries 'blackprop'

CANDIDATE Ramon "RJ" Jacinto yesterday accused Rep. Elpidio Badelles of resorting to recycling old issues to conduct a black propaganda campaign against him.

In a statement, Jacinto, a businessman and musician who is now running for congressman of Iligan City, said Badelles is using dirty

tricks in the campaign.

"This is a replay of 1998. The PNB loan is an old issue. PNB earned P3.7 billion from the transaction," Jacinto said in his statement.

"My company's remaining debts of P300 million with PNB have been settled in principle. We are awaiting a confirmation letter," he said.

"(The) First Women's Credit debts with Land Bank have been restructured. Half have been paid and the other half stretched out. But the Erap administration reneged on the restructuring," Jacinto continued.

"On the contrary, it is Congressman Badelles who borrowed through

his wife P80 million from Land Bank, spent only P15 million on the Tinago Residence Inn project, and did not pay the loan. The Land Bank had to foreclose. This is a possible 'plunder' case," said Jacinto.

"This is a big public issue in Iligan. The public wants an accounting from Badelles," he added.

The campaign line of Jacinto is to re-start the National Steel Corp. through a Steel Rescue Plan. He accused Badelles of promoting a program to cement basketball courts, build waiting sheds and overpasses.

Jacinto promised to put Iligan back in business.

Lawyer claims self-defense in slaying

BY RECTO L. VIDAL

PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—Lawyer Benito Salazar claimed self-defense in shooting to death Raymundo Rodriguez, Lakas-NUCD leader in Aklan, in Barangay Dumaguít, New Washington town on Thursday.

He said he was forced to fire at Rodriguez after Rodriguez allegedly threatened to shoot him over a conflict on stevedoring operations at the Dumaguít Pier.

"I was merely forced to defend myself. I don't have any intention of hurting anybody," Salazar said in between sobs during a press conference Friday at his detention cell at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Barangay Nalook, this capital town.

Salazar also admitted that he was driven by personal, not political, motive. "I will not kill anybody just because of politics," he said.

When asked to elaborate, Salazar merely said the victim had besmirched his "dignity and honor."

Salazar appealed to candidates in Aklan to refrain from putting any political color on the incident. He also apologized to the Rodriguez clan and begged for their mercy.

Bombo Radyo reporter Judel Rentillo was interviewing Rodriguez at the Dumaguít Pier on April 26 when Salazar suddenly appeared and fired his 9 mm pistol at Rodriguez.

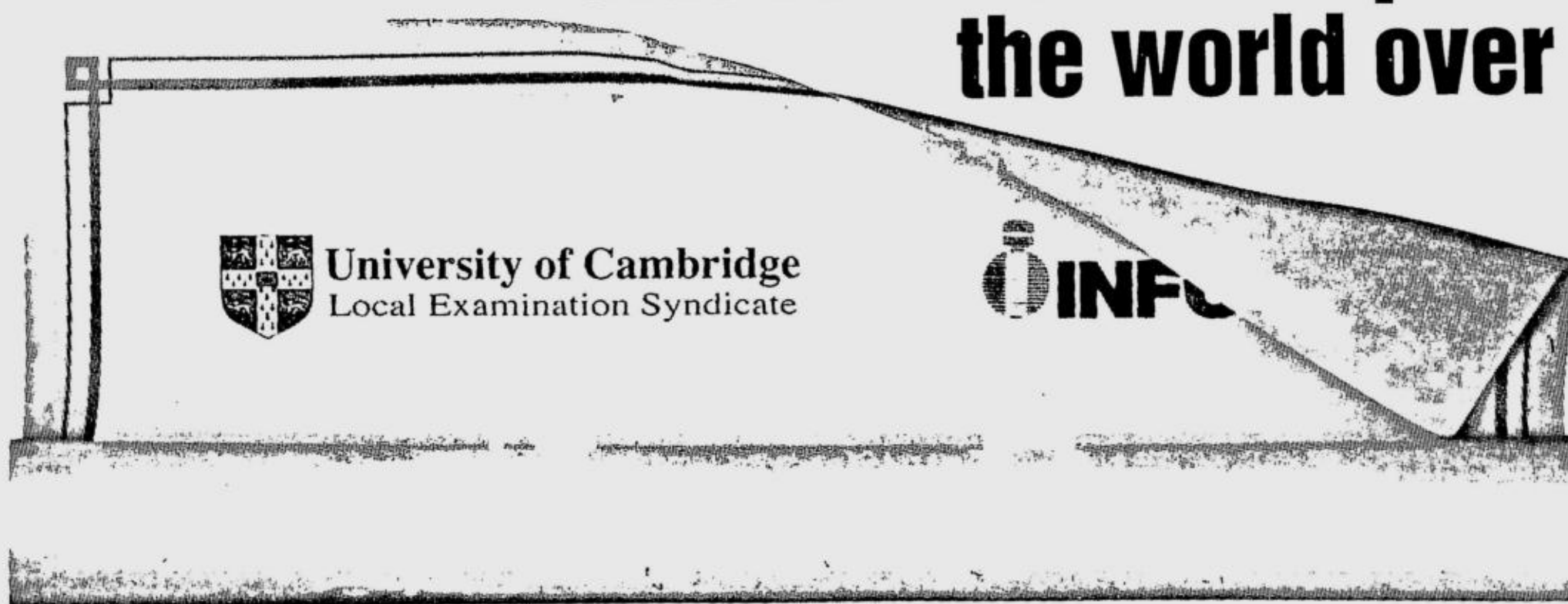
Salazar suffered 13 gunshot wounds. Rentillo jumped into the water and hid himself in the pier after Rodriguez, he said, fired at him but missed.

Salazar also apologized to Rentillo during the press conference.

"I know it was a traumatic experience for the Bombo reporter that is why I want to apologize for the incident. I never meant to hurt him," said Salazar, the former legal counsel of senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson in the infamous Kuratong Baleleng case.

Salazar was the operator of the Eagles Port, which was in charge of the arrastre services at the pier. Rodriguez used to help him manage the arrastre firm.

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'ARAW NG KASAMBAHAY'

Domestic helps rally in Davao to demand respect, protection

DAVAOCITY—Domestic helpers marked their "Araw ng Kasambahay" activity here Sunday as the day of empowerment as they map out plans to advance their struggle for respect and recognition of their rights.

The helpers, under the Samahan at Ugnayan ng mga Manggagawang Pantahanan sa Pilipinas or Sumapi, also hope to institutionalize the activity in an effort to draw greater public attention.

"Today we prove that we have a voice and the strength if we gather as one. This is only the beginning. We will not stop asserting our rights and in calling on (the) government and society to listen to our fight for protection and promotion of our rights," said Cecilia Orocio, 20, Sumapi president who has been employed as a domestic helper since she was 11 years old.

Oroccio said like most young domestic helpers, she was also a victim of exploitation and had experienced being maltreated by the different employers she had worked with.

Oroccio's words were accepted like gospel truth by some 200 helpers who joined the "Araw ng Kasambahay" activity at the Assumption College of Davao here.

Most helpers who took part in the activity claimed they also experienced what their leader had gone through.

Eighteen-year-old Melbourne Maestrado, who has been a helper for a decade now, recounted his own experience as a child domestic helper through a lullaby he composed.

"Paalam na, paalam na kamusmusan/akin na'ng kinalimutan/Paalam na, paalam na kaapitan, ito'y ayaw ko nang muling

balikan... tama na tama na/ pag-aabuso sa mga batang tulad ko/ hindi tayo aso/ma-maltratuhin nang todo," a stanza of Maestrado's song says.

Maestrado said the only way to stop the exploitation of domestic helpers is for the government to ensure the passage of laws that will protect them from exploitation and maltreatment; advance their rights; address their needs as children and as persons; and strengthen laws penalizing exploitative employers.

There are some 800,000 children who are serving as domestic helpers in the country, according to the International Labor Organization-International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC).

Carmela Torres, ILO-IPEC country program head, said a number of children domestic helpers are also victims of traffick-

ing and are working in unfavorable working conditions in households.

Torres said they also documented cases of physical and other abuses committed by employers on child domestics.

Ma. Cecilia Oebanda, president of the Visayan Forum that provides assistance to the domestic helpers, noted that the domestic helpers are among the most exploited and vulnerable workers in the country.

Despite their age, child domestic helpers are made to work for as long as 18 hours a day.

Oebanda said the Visayan Forum alone is currently extending direct legal assistance to some 1,700 children domestic helpers who had experienced sexual and physical abuse in the hands of their employers. **Jowel F. Canaday, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

ROUNDUP

PDI man wins award

SANTA, Ilocos Sur—Gumil Filipinas, an association of Ilocano writers, granted the Pammadayaw Pedro Bucaneg award to poet, novelist and short story writer Peter La. Julian during the group's 33rd annual national convention held here last week. La. Julian, an INQUIRER correspondent in La Union, was cited for his contribution to the development of Ilocano writing, particularly the *daniw*, a form of Ilocano poetry. He is also credited for the translation of the Holy Bible into Ilocano from the original Hebrew and Greek languages. Past recipients of the organization's highest award were Alejandro Hufana, Dr. Marcelino Foronda Jr. and Dr. Godofredo Reyes, Ilocandia poet laureate. **Gia Damaso-Dumio, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

3 guns seized

CAMP ADDURU, Tuguegarao City—Police have confiscated three high-powered firearms and bullets from the house of a supporter of a candidate here. Recovered from the house of Ric Cabacungan in Barangay Caritan Sur were two M-16 Armalite rifles, a Carbine rifle and at least 200 bullets. The policemen, who were armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Dominador Garcia, failed to arrest Cabacungan who was not in the house when the search was conducted. **Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

More guns seized

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police manning a checkpoint in Magalang town seized early Saturday a 9-mm machine pistol and a .45 cal. pistol from a candidate. The guns seized from Lakas vice mayoral candidate Lyndon Cunanan of Magalang were not covered by a Commission on Elections' exemption. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police chief, said. Police filed a case of violation of firearms ban against Cunanan before the provincial's prosecutor office on Sunday. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Palawan bets sign pact

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Candidates for the May 14 elections here signed a covenant for honest, orderly and peaceful elections in front of about 500 residents during a prayer rally held recently here. Sponsored by the Kapatirang Pilipino sa Ibayong Dagat Inc. and the religious sector, the covenant contained a promise that the candidates will adhere to the rules and regulations set for them to follow. Police and religious leaders witnessed the signing. The candidates also swore in front of Palawan Apostolic Vicar Bishop Pedro Arigo that they would abide by the covenant they signed. **Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Community radio launched

CAPIZ Gov. Vicente Bermejo and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) recently launched a Community Public Address (ComPAS) radio station in Barangay Lantangan. The 30-watt Kabuhi Community Radio Station, 110.5 megahertz in the FM band, will serve about 5,000 households in Lantangan and nearby barangays. ComPAS, which is a part of the Fifth Country Program for Children, aims to increase access to information to enable families and child caregivers to make appropriate choices in caring for children.

Rebel killed in clash

LEGAZPI CITY—A New People's Army rebel was killed in an encounter with elements of the 22nd Infantry Battalion of the 202nd Infantry Brigade in Barangay La Purisima, Bula, Camarines Sur, last Monday. A report to Col. Dante Bonifacio, 202nd IB commanding officer, said government troops clashed with NPA rebels at around 2 p.m., April 23. After a five-minute firefight, the rebels fled to different directions, leaving behind a body identified as that of Ka Roy of the Komiteng Larangang Gerilya 74 operating in Bula. The military recovered a caliber .45 pistol and some personal belongings of the rebels. **Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Battalion 50 years old

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Army's 22nd Infantry Battalion recently celebrated its 50th foundation anniversary on April 21 with Brig. Gen. Marcial Collao as guest, representing Maj. Gen. Jacinto C. Ligot, commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division. Ligot was recently promoted to a two-star rank and took his oath in Malacanan on that day. Special guests were Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara, Mayor Gerry Triquero of Pioduran, Albay, city Mayor Fernando Gonzalez of Ligao, 202nd IB commanding officer Col. Dante Bonifacio, Bicol police director Chief Supt. Delfin. Col. Danny Lim and Maj. Manuel Garin, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion. **Tony S. Macasinas, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Rebel killed

BACOLOD CITY—A leader of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade was shot dead Saturday by policemen in Escalante City. Police said Danilo Dumundum, a regional commander of the RPA-ABB, suffered multiple bullet wounds after being shot by PO2 Ricardo Quamto and SPO2 Angel Sinadjan. Quamto claimed that he shot Dumundum after the rebel leader pulled out his gun and tried to shoot him. RPA-ABB national commander Carupali Lualhati, however, said Dumundum was waylaid by six policemen who took turns in shooting him. Supt. Geary Barias, police director in Negros Occidental, said he asked the Criminal Investigation Detection Group to conduct a thorough investigation of the shooting to avoid suspicions of partiality in the investigation. The RPA-ABB has entered into a peace agreement with the government during the Estrada administration. Under the pact, the rebels get to keep their firearms. **Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau**

6 Visayas, Mindanao papers win PPI awards

SIX newspapers from the Visayas and Mindanao grabbed an award each, while two Luzon-based publications won the two remaining honors during the Philippine Press Institute-Konrad Adenauer Foundation Community Press Awards for 2000 held April 26 at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

The winners for the daily category were: SunStar Davao, for the Best Edited Paper; Visayan Daily Star, for the Best Editorial Page; SunStar Cagayan de Oro, for the Best in Business and Economic Reporting; and Negros Daily

Bulletin for Best in Environmental Reporting.

For the weekly category, the winners were: The Voice (Pampanga), for the Best Edited Paper; Bohol Chronicle, for the Best Editorial Page; Sunday Punch (Dagupan City), for the Best in Business and Economic Reporting; and Bandillo ng Palawan for the Best in Environmental Reporting.

All nominations for the daily category came from the Visayas and Mindanao. The Visayan Daily Star led with three nominations, followed by SunStar

Cagayan de Oro with two.

The entries were judged by a five-person panel board composed of a working journalist, a communications educator, a scholar, a business and civic leader and a community development worker.

The annual awards, which started in 1997, honor the best-written and edited community paper.

Last year, Cebu City's SunStar Daily and The Freeman were elevated to the Community Press Awards Hall of Fame for consistently winning multiple awards for three straight years.

The awarding ceremony was the culmination of the three-day PPI 5th National Press Forum.

The conference, which adopted the theme "Media and Governance," gathered publishers, editors and media critics from all over the country to take a look at the performance of newspapers as watchdogs of the government.

The participants discussed how newspapers could improve their reporting on government, with emphasis on corruption. They also came up with recommendations to enhance their journalistic craft.

Vizcaya caves assessed safe despite damages

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Members of a cave exploration group said the multi-chambered caves in Barangay Capissaan, in Kasibu town are safe for tourists despite the damage they suffered recently due to blasting activities near the area.

The Gaia Exploration Club (GEC), a Metro Manila-based organization of cave enthusiasts, mountaineers, bikers and spelunkers, issued this statement following an initial assessment of the damage inside the Alayan and Lion's caves.

Cave enthusiasts inspected the 4-kilometer cave system in Barangay Capissaan during the first national caving congress held in Kasibu from April 9-14.

The blasting activity was done to remove huge boulders in a P2-million road project funded by the provincial government.

The road is being built to lessen trekking time among tourists visiting the Alayan Cave.

Fall of stalactites
The GEC members said their assessment showed that at least two huge stalactites fell while a cave wall suffered a crack in the middle of the Alayan and Lion's caves.

"Whether the cracks which are quite fresh inside the cave were caused by the blasting or not, it is still a very legitimate point of concern. I checked out the map and it (where the blasting was done) could not be more than 2 kilometers away," said GEC member G-Third Atanque.

He said caves and karst (a barren limestone region characterized by fissures, caves and underground channels) terrain are unstable areas and cave formations are very fragile.

"It takes hundreds of years for a single stalactite to form and grow but it only takes a single vibration from, let's say, an earthquake or an incompetent visitor for that matter to break this formation and that's gone forever," Atanque said.

Protection
"This (cave protection) should have been part of a cooperation and collaboration among caving organizations, local government units and the community. I am 100 percent sure they do not know what damages they are doing to the caves," said Mark Dia also of the GEC.

Eric Bangad, president of the Sang-at Salug Outdoor Club (SSOC), said they would recommend to the provincial government the protection of several portions of Kasibu's cave system to preserve its natural beauty.

He said the protection of the caves' major features is needed to prevent discoloration and to preserve their crystal-like formations that might be touched or broken by visitors.

"We still have a long way to go regarding the general protection of this natural wonder because it is a very different and a very delicate attraction... and exploring it) needs proper compliance with caving rules and standards," Bangad said.

The Department of Tourism in Cagayan Valley has classified Kasibu's cave system as world-class and has included it in Nueva Vizcaya's major tourist destinations. **Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

SAMPLE OFFICIAL BALLOT

MAY 14, 2001

Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive marks on any part of the ballot.

SENATORS

1. **BOBBY TAÑADA**
2. **KIKO PANGILINAN**
3. MONSOD
4. OBET
5. CHATO
6. HERRERA
7. VILLAR
8. MAGSAYSAY
9. RECTO
10. OSMEÑA
11. ARROYO
12. DRILON
13. FLAVIER

Bakit si Bobby Tañada?

"Matindi ang galit ko sa mga kawalan sa gobyerno. Nilalaban ko ang katiwalian sa pamahalaan at ipinaglalaban ko ang kapakanan ng taumbayan. Hindi negosyo ang pagpasok sa pulitika kundi pagsisilbi sa mamamayan."

Bakit si Kiko Pangilinan?

Sa simula pa lang, public service na ang pinaghandaan ni Kiko. Sa kolehiyo, sa pagsisilbi sa local government, bilang Free Legal Assistance Group lawyer, at bilang broadcaster. Ayon kay Kiko, "may panahon ang lahat, pati ang pagbabago."

Bakit dapat iboto ang Liberal Party sa Party List?

IBOTO SA PARTY LIST

Select one from among the Political Parties, Sectoral Parties (Labor, Peasants, Urban Poor, Indigenous Cultural Communities, Women, Veterans, Elderly, Disabled, Fisherfolks, Overseas Workers, Youth or Professionals), Organizations or Coalitions enumerated in the certified list posted on the voting booth.



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- ☒ Ibabalik ang kapangyarihan sa kamay ng naninindigang mamamayan.
- ☒ Aalagaan ang kinabukasan ng kabataan.
- ☒ Isusulong ang maunlad at makakalikasang ekonomiya.

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PARTY-LIST

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Soldier slain by Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A soldier was killed in a clash with suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels in Jolo, Sulu, Saturday afternoon.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, Task Force Comet spokesperson, said sketchy reports reaching his office also indicated that Jawawi Susukan, brother of Abu Sayyaf leader Mujib Susukan, was killed in the clash.

Pfc. Isaah Sali, a former Moro National Liberation Front rebel integrated into the military, was killed in the encounter.

Narcise said Jawawi was one of those who took hostage of the 21 mostly foreign tourists from a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia, last year.

Of the 21 hostages, only Filipino dive instructor Roland Ullah remains in captivity.

Narcise said on Friday afternoon, a suspected Abu Sayyaf member was killed in an encounter with government forces in Barangay Labah, Maimbung, Sulu. **Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Celebrate

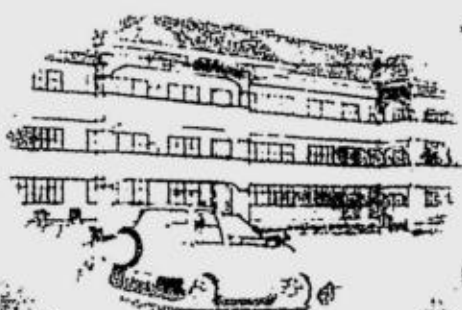
Our Lady of Manaoag

Diamond Jubilee Day (May 2, 2001)

In Front of the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag

OUR LADY OF MANAOAG

75 Years
Diamond Jubilee



Our Lady of Manaoag College



Our Lady of Manaoag Pilgrims' Center



Our Lady of Manaoag Rosary Garden



Our Lady of Manaoag Museum

Diamond Jubilee Day Program

8:30 A.M.

CONCELEBRATED MASS

Principal Celebrant and Preacher: MOST REV. ANTONIO FRANCO
The Papal Nuncio to the Philippines

Concelebrants:

Most Rev. Oscar V. Cruz
Most Rev. Leo M. Drona
Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias
Most Rev. Antonio R. Rañola
Most Rev. Sofio G. Balce
Most Rev. Pacino B. Aniceto
Most Rev. Gaudencio B. Rosales
Most Rev. Deogracias S. Iñiguez, Jr.

Most Rev. Ramon B. Villena
Most Rev. Jesus A. Cabrera
Most Rev. Jesus C. Galang
Most Rev. Florentino F. Cinense
Most Rev. Edmundo Abaya
Most Rev. Ernesto A. Salgado
Most Rev. Jose P. Salazar
Most Rev. Filomeno G. Bactol
Most Rev. Francisco C. San Diego

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel reading
General Intercessions
Commentator

Karina Sorin
Dominican Novices of the Annunciation
Jonathan O. Gan
Rev. Fr. Rafael Quejada, OP
Ferdinand Pacania

REENACTMENT OF THE CORONATION CEREMONIES

Reading of the Petition

Rev. Fr. Patricio A. Apa, OP
Prior, Holy Rosary Convent, Manaoag

Reading of the Responsive
given by Pope Pius XI

Rev. Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP
Provincial, Phil. Province
by the Papal Nuncio assisted by
Most Rev. Oscar V. Cruz

The Coronation

CORONATION HYMN

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

To be led by Atty. Pedrito A. Garcia
Mayor, Municipality of Manaoag

DESPEDIDA HYMN - ADIOS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Atty. John Agerico Rosario
Vice-Chairman, Our Lady's Diamond Jubilee Celebration

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Triples of Sto. Domingo Church

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Radio Broadcasting - Bombo Radio / Consolidated Broadcasting System, Inc.
April 22 - May 1, 2001

4:30 P.M.

CONCELEBRATED MASS

Principal Celebrant & Preacher

Concelebrants

Choir Service

SOLEMN PROCESSION (immediately after the mass)

Our Lady's Diamond Jubilee EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Auditor

Rev. Fr. Ernesto Arceo, OP
Provincial, Dominican Province of the Phil.
DOMINICAN FATHERS OF MANAOAG
Our Lady of Manaoag Grand Choir

Rev. Fr. Patricio A. APA, OP
BM John Agerico Rosario
Mrs. Kit C. Sison
Sr. Ma. Corazon R. Moraza, OP
Mr. Lito Lim

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Com. on Christian Education
& Formation
Com. on Ways & Means
Com. on Finance
Com. on Cultural Presentation
Com. on Publicity &
Souvenir Program
Com. on Pilgrimage
Com. on Field Altar
Com. on Accommodation
Com. on Youth Involvement
Com. on Town Reception,
Beautification & Community
Participation
Com. on Health & First Aid
Com. on Lights & Sounds
Com. on Procession
Com. on Arches & Streamers
Com. on Cleanliness & Sanitation
Com. on Peace & Order

Rev. Fr. Deng dela Cruz, OP

Sis. Estela Bautista
Mrs. Jovita Sy
Sr. Ma. Corazon R. Moraza, OP
Mr. Ronald Guico

Mr. Larry Martinez
Mrs. Baby Acero
Mr. Jimmy Soriano
Mr. Ramon Bautista
Miss Cecile Abrigo

Mayor Pedrito A. Garcia
VM Napoleon Sales
Mr. Wilson Manaois
54th Engineer Brigade, PA
Camp Abat, Manaoag
Mr. Terry Sison
Mrs. Divina Mangonon

Manaoag PNP Force

SME workers: Modern slaves

(From page A1)

area are willing to take over his job. He was recruited by an employment agency, who typically collects about 5 percent of his wage.

Of the 11 official holidays each year, Emil often does not get holiday pay because he is paid on a daily basis. He does not enjoy any vacation or sick leave benefits and is not paid a 13th-month pay (Christmas bonus equivalent to one-month pay).

Emil is hired only for a period of five months so that he does not become a regular employee, a scheme designed by his employer to evade the law.

Trining works in a small store with some 20 employees. She is 23, married, and like Emil, works long hours for little pay. She makes P150 for a nine-hour day. But unlike Emil, who lives close to his job, Trining commutes for one to two hours each way. Her transportation costs around P45 roundtrip, including a portion on the MRT.

Like Emil, she is not paid for overtime work nor receives holiday pay. Some employers claim they are assigned to projects which do not exist, and which magically seem to end before six months. When the law about "project employees" was written, legislators had in mind construction workers, not store clerks like Trining.

Both Emil's and Trining's employment can be terminated anytime since they do not hold written contracts of employment.

Millions of common workers toil every day like Emil and Trining who are forced to suffer exploitation and insecurity in silent misery. State policies on labor conditions and labor relations do not effectively protect them. Workers' demonstrations do not really give them a voice, much less benefits to enjoy or even just hope for. These are the workers in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Despite their numbers, they are mired in poverty and powerlessness. Who will really take the cudgels for them?

Majority of wage-earners

SMEs are retail, service, commercial and industrial establishments employing at least 10 but not more than 99 workers. They comprise more than 90

percent of the total number of the country's business establishments. They numbered 826,783 according to the National Statistics Office, 1999 List of Establishments based on the Philippine Standard Industry Classification Code.

As of October 1999, there were 3.72 million workers employed in Metro Manila alone, according to NSO (from the final results of the October round labor force survey).

Of this number, about 3.3 million (91 percent) were in SMEs. It should be quite easy to see that SMEs employ the majority of the Filipino wage earners.

But the research of Leviticus Foundation in April 2000 showed almost half (44 percent) of these SME establishments to be paying their workers below the legislated minimum wage.

Seven labor standards and welfare laws (on status of employment, working hours, leave benefits, monetary benefits, insurance benefits, and security of tenure) are likewise being violated with impunity.

Workers in SMEs have effectively been denied their right to job security and their right to bargain collectively for better conditions and pay. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) confirms these findings.

Big employers' club

Employers, with their own set of problems in keeping their profit margins at levels they deem fair for themselves, obviously lack understanding and concern for SME workers. Most SME employers are not members of the organization of employers.

This could be explained by the fact that the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) is an organization of big enterprises and that they perhaps feel that it is not their responsibility to show concern for the workers of small enterprises.

But SME owners/employers need help in studying and lobbying for proposed legislation, including various incentives, that would make their business reasonably profitable even while complying with minimum wage and benefits laws. It should be the concern of the entire employers sector to keep SMEs from violating the law or folding up.

Unless they are fanatics for compe-

tion, big employers must begin to understand the complementary roles they have with the SME employers in the context of economic growth and development.

Fear of losing control

But perhaps in realizing that SMEs comprise the overwhelming majority of enterprises, the groups who have perpetually enjoyed control of Ecop may feel insecure that if the organization were to embrace such great numbers, their own control of the organization would be imperiled.

The big employers either fail to realize, or simply couldn't care less, that unless they bring into their fold the majority of employers, Ecop cannot honestly validate the claim implied in its name.

Big labor's indifference

It is understandable why labor centers, federations, unions and other formations of labor have all but completely ignored the SME workers in their organizing work.

As they always say, in an SME, there would be too few workers to waste their time and organizing resources. In so many cases, employees are too few to be formed into unions. SME workers are usually terrified at the prospect of losing their jobs because they have really been the most vulnerable to sudden layoffs. And big labor has always used these same workers' perpetual insecurity for its reluctance to help them.

This is ironic because the same insecurity has been used by SME owners to their advantage and get away with widespread violations of laws and workers' rights.

The mind-set being maintained by the employers toward their workers, tacitly supported by big labor that a low wage—even lower than the legislated minimum—is better than nothing (*Alas mahuli na lang ito kay sa wala*).

I had a long lunch meeting with labor leader Popoy Lagman shortly before he was killed. We talked about big labor's failure to show concern for SME workers. Lagman admitted this fact and agreed with me about big labor's lack of enthusiasm for SME workers. We agreed to meet again to discuss how we would involve big labor federations in

the campaign, but he was assassinated a few days later.

I also talked with Efren Arranzamendez, president of the Confederation of Free Workers (CFW)—a breakaway group from FFW—now Commissioner at SSS representing labor. He expressed the same observations as Lagman and his regrets over labor's inability to provide support to SMEs. He has vowed to collaborate in the campaign to help us help these workers.

Former sectoral representative in Congress, Rep. Tim Dejon, gave me a similar admission, saying "nobody brought up this matter (plight of SME workers) to us."

Shameless impotence

As a result of policies and programs adopted by a series of administrations in the past years, Philippine economic conditions can only worsen at increasing rates. The largely unprotected workers in SMEs stand to remain among the hardest-hit sections of the population.

With fuel prices deregulated, followed by record plunges in the value of our peso and the resulting heavier dollar burden in making even just interest payments on our foreign obligations, prices of goods and services are expected to spiral even more.

Wages sacrificed

But the workers cannot expect commensurate wage increases. Their wages are always sacrificed at the altar of encouraging investments to create and maintain jobs. They are always told to suffer in silence because even their just demands for higher pay are instantly viewed as adversarial to the country's broader economic interests.

This means that while other workers are raising placards for higher pay in pursuit of a family living wage, SME workers have not been even paid the legislated minimum wage.

DOLE has only 250 inspectors for the whole country tasked to effectively monitor and enforce compliance with minimum wage and benefits laws, protection of women and children, encouraging a big number of firms to violate these laws with impunity.

But we have yet to hear a labor secretary vehemently demanding a higher budget allocation for DOLE's inspec-

torate function.

Government is apparently satisfied with this shameless level of impotence as long as some excuses can be enumerated. Such a pattern borders on criminal negligence, to put it mildly.

DTI detached

If DOLE has been almost completely ineffective on this score, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) could not have been more remotely detached from this concern.

The DTI has a role to play in helping SMEs to comply with wage and standards laws at least with the minimum requirements and still allow entrepreneurs to gain reasonable profits. That is, unless it is ready to admit now that keeping investors satisfied and investing has consistently been and will ever remain DTI's complete mandate. For what is the department maintaining a bureau of small business if it can't help the SMEs operate both viably and legally?

Dismal legislation

In the halls of Congress, legislative work has been dismal in the area of providing relief for worker-victims of violations of labor laws.

The last significant labor legislation came out of Congress 12 years ago (1989), pertaining to labor relations and restructuring of the machinery for wage determination and rationalization of wages by regions.

And what have been shaping up as proposals for revision of the labor laws? A report released this year by the Congressional Labor Commission contains a simple reiteration of commonly known economic basics and the observations recorded appear to be a generalized rehash of recommendations on labor problems that had been consistently exposed and discussed for some 10 years now.

It is long overdue for Congress and its committees to think of viable solutions and approaches to the problems plaguing the workers all these years.

The problems include contractualization, casualization, worsening exploitation and the abuse of the use of agency workers.

I think too many symposia and seminars have been conducted *ad nauseam*. Some real results should emerge. Let's get to work and stop quareling among

ourselves.

Government's shameless impotence and irresponsibility on this set of basic functions of governance redounds to impotence as well on the part of the Republic itself, its will and capacity to enact and enforce laws for its citizens who comprise a large section of the sovereign body politic.

Church: Beyond gestures

The Jubilee Year 2000 has ended, and one of the lasting imprints it can have in this predominantly Catholic country is to manifest an effective witnessing to the call for the liberation of slaves. The Catholic Church has proven more than adequately that it is very influential in Philippine social and political life, and it has long been making pro-labor pronouncements. The Labor Day message of Cardinal Sin last year as echoed by a year-end message of the Archdiocese of Manila Labor Center, had assured us that labor was still in the heart of this Church.

It is exactly a year ago today, May First when Sin issued his Labor Day call "to promote every worker's basic right to security of employment" and to make sure that every worker's wage would enable him or her to a decent living to provide the basic needs of the family." We would like to believe that these words were not meant by the good prelate to be so soon forgotten.

Other churches have issued parallel pronouncements.

Remember that the majority of employers in SMEs and the majority of government functionaries responsible for enacting, implementing and interpreting laws on labor are Christians mostly Catholics. And that church just celebrated the Jubilee Year, complete with an "action song" happily being sung throughout the past year. (*To be concluded tomorrow.*)

(Editor's Note: The author, a noted labor lawyer, is retired from active practice. He was formerly president of the Philippine Industrial Relations Society which is affiliated with the International Industrial Relations Association. He has handled cases and causes on behalf of management and on behalf of workers groups. He was set up the Leviticus Foundation dedicated to researching the state of the common workers.)

Show of force set at Mendiola

(From page A1)

A huge rally is being organized at the Don Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola) near Malacañang at 4 p.m. with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the 13 People Power Coalition senatorial candidates in attendance. Organizers expect to mobilize up to one million participants.

"We will show to those who were at the Edsa Shrine that the Filipino people are here in Mendiola," PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said during a news conference yesterday.

Simultaneous rallies in 12 cities and 25 provinces will also be held today.

The Mendiola rally is being organized by the KMU, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Bisig, Alliance of Progressive Labor, Federation of Free Workers, Bayan, Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Makati Business Club, Gomburza, Couples for Christ and Kompil II.

Some 2,000 protesters kicked off the Labor Day anti-Estrada rally with a Mass at the Mendiola Bridge last night. Bishop Ramon Arguelles of the military vicariate led the concelebrated Mass with Fr. Robert Reyes.

Reyes told the people to heed Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's call to keep vigil at the historic bridge. He added that provisions were being prepared for those who would go there.

Shortcomings

During the Mass, the Catholic hierarchy called on the youth that formed the majority at Edsa II to preserve the gains of the second People Power uprising. The Church admitted its shortcomings in imparting the ideals and values of Edsa II to a larger part of the population thus resulting in events like the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine.

Last night's vigil was held because, Limcaoco said, there were still persistent reports that pro-Estrada supporters might attempt to storm Malacañang.

"We heard that they will try to mobilize (and) they will try again and if they aren't able to do so, then that would be the end of it," he said.

Limcaoco invited the public to join today's rally. The rally's theme is: "*Ipagtianggol at isulong ang tunay na diwa ng People Power para sa ganap na katarungan, kapayapaan at pagkakaisa* (Protect and advance the real spirit of People Power for justice, peace and unity)."

Davao rally

KMU-Southern Mindanao secretary general, Felix Irag, said they are gathering at least 5,000 workers in Davao City today to prove that more people, including the poor, lowly wage earners are against Estrada's restoration to power.

Abundio Marapao, president of the Mindanao Constructors and the 13-0 Movement Davao, and Joji Ilagan Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said their constituents and other anti-Estrada forces are joining the KMU in the march and rally from Magsaysay Park to the Rizal Park.

Vidal Payao, a director of a group called Pro-Erap Davao, warned of bloodshed if the anti-Estrada forces push through with their march and rally at the Rizal Park. Anti-Estrada forces had vowed last week that they would not leave the park until President Macapagal steps down from power.

But Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, said they would not hesitate to use the full force of the police in quelling pro-Estrada forces who will initiate violence in mass actions today.

"They want bloodshed? Then we will give it to them. We respect their rights to free assembly and freedom of speech. But if they will violate

the law, we will use the full force of the law on them," Matillano said.

Irag said they do not plan to clash with the pro-Estrada forces but they have already assigned their own marshals and discussed with police officials the security measures needed during the rally.

No negotiations

Limcaoco and Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo dismissed the demand of the opposition for the President to step down and for Estrada to return to power, noting that the Supreme Court had already twice declared the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

"*Tapos na ang usapin na yan. Wala nang negosasyon* (That issue is over. There are no more negotiations)," Ocampo said.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano said the government should ensure that the plunder case of Estrada and his cronies would push through. He promised that his group would resist any attempt to bring Estrada back in power.

Mariano had this message for Estrada: "*Huwag ninyo kami subukan. Pinatalsik n. namin kayo minsan. Titiyakin namin n. mailalagay kayo sa dapat ninyon. kalalugyan doon sa kulungan* (Don't try us. We already ousted you once. We'll make sure that you are put in jail, where you deserve to be put)."

On Sunday night, more than 2,000 people from militant organizations, party-list groups and church groups massed up in Mendiola following reports that the pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine was going to storm Malacañang.

Among the groups that mobilized their supporters were Akbayan, Bayan Muna and the Jesus is Lord Movement of Bro. Eddie Villanueva. Among those who were in Mendiola were Fr. Robert Reyes, Interior Secretary Joey Lina, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, political scientist Alex Magno, former housing czar Karina David and her husband, Prof. Randy David.

Although it was still summer vacation, some 200 students from the University of the Philippines and other schools marched to Mendiola yesterday morning and were mobilizing more students for the rally today.

The UP University Student Council and other campus organizations began calling on students staying at dormitories late Sunday evening to come to Mendiola in anticipation of the alleged siege by pro-Estrada supporters.

Rare gathering

In Davao City, members of the KMU, Bayan Muna, civil society groups and ranking Mindanao officials sat together yesterday with the highest officers of the Army and the Philippine National Police to announce their continued support to the Macapagal administration. The rare gathering was initiated by Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southern Mindanao.

Most of the participants went to the Centennial Park where they lit candles for peace and democracy.

They were joined by members of the Couples for Christ, Hugpong Davao, Mindanao Constructors Association Inc., Mindanao Coalition of Non-Government and People's Organizations, Davao Business Club, Mindanao Business Council, Civil Society Group, Rx Against Erap and Davao Tourism Association. *With reports from Dona Paziubagan, Philip Tubeza and Shirley Hope Sebastian*



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Erap blames Miriam for march idea

(From page A1)

The disgraced leader said he was hoping that the country would not end up in a civil war following reports that anti-Estrada groups were gearing for their own mass action to counter the so-called "Edsa III."

"Even if I am in jail, I am praying for the country and the people," he said.

Santiago, along with other senatorial candidates of the Estrada-backed Puwersa ng Masa, had made incendiary remarks during the loyalist rallies at Edsa that started on Wednesday night, following the ex-President's arrest on charges of plunder.

Estrada also said Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal met with him Sunday night to start negotiations between his camp and the Macapagal administration.

He said Vidal, who served as one of his spiritual advisers during his presidency, spoke with him about the formation of negotiating panels. He did not elaborate.

Estrada lawyer Raymond Fortun, however, said this was "fresh news" to him.

Sources at the Cebu Archbishop's Palace said Vidal was still in Manila and did not leave word as to when he would be back.

At dawn yesterday, when rumors of an impending "power grab" by Estrada forces were at their height, five Scorpion tanks, two armored personnel carriers and some 2,000 military and anti-riot policemen were deployed to secure the ex-President at the VMMC on North Avenue, Quezon City.

In good health

Estrada said he was in good health "although I'm still in my hospital jail."

Asked if he felt that he was in danger, he said: "They can bring me out of here any time."

He said the VMMC was surrounded by tanks and soldiers from the Special Forces and the Marines.

As of yesterday, Estrada had yet to complete his medical checkup. He took four tests the other day and another four yesterday.

These are a complete blood count, urinalysis, blood sugar test, liver profile, cholesterol test, chest X-ray, heart X-ray and a "PSA (prostatic specific antigen)," according to Dr. Salvador Flores, VMMC medical director.

Flores said that so far, test results had shown the ex-President to be in "good physical condition."

He said it was up to Estrada's private doctors to decide whether to make the results public.

Estrada urged his supporters, including a group that held a rally at the Bacolod public plaza yesterday, to "keep the faith, to fight for human rights and our Constitution."

He reiterated that he was the real president as he was voted into office by more than 10 million Filipinos during the 1998 election.

Commenting on Vidal's supposed visit to the ex-President, Fortun said: "Right now everything is pretty speculative and in the realm of possibility."

Fortun, who attended the loyalist rally in Bacolod, also said: "I think the fact that there are people on both sides trying to arrive at a peaceful settlement is a good sign, at the very

least. I think this is what everybody wants, whether pro- or anti-Estrada."

The lawyer said his client only wanted justice and fair treatment in his cases, "considering that under our Constitution he is presumed innocent until proven guilty."

"The country should move on, but that also includes (moving) on under the rule of law with justice and equity for all," he said. *With a report from Lino Gilbert Parone Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*



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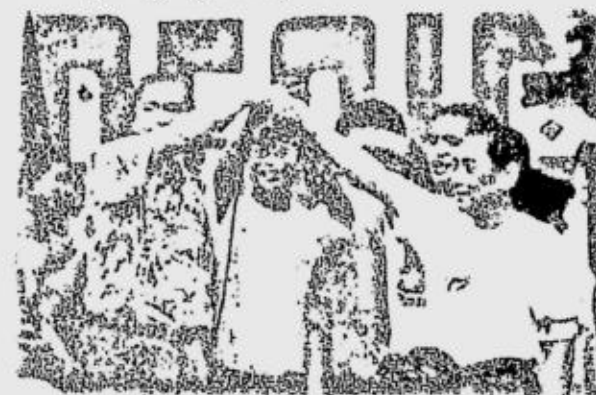
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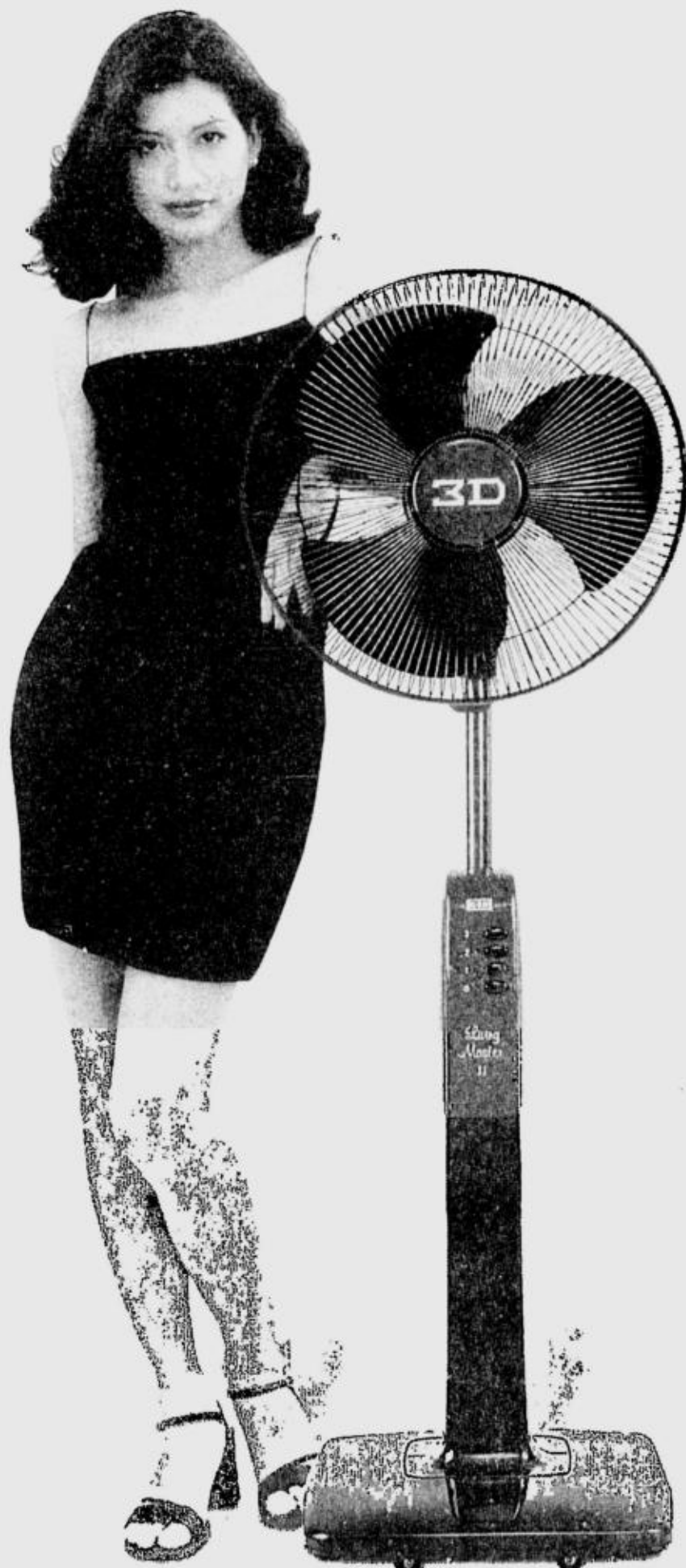
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NBA PLAYOFFS

Shaq, Kobe star as Lakers sweep Blazers

Dazz beat
ML Padala

CEBU CITY—Dazz Ultra smothered ML Kwart Padala, 72-66, in a pressure-packed game of the 1st OHM CBL-MICAA Summer Showdown at the Inayawan Sports Complex here.

Their second win in three outings pushed the Greasebusters to a tie for second place with favorite M. Lhuillier Jewelers, who shut down cellar-dweller Upland Stockfeeds, 107-78.

Joel Bona, formerly of Blu Sun Power, proved his worth to Dazz Ultra team owner Jack Huang as the bull-strong forward topscored with 15 points. Veteran Rudy Enterina and Rey Cantona added 14 markers each.

The Cash Forwarders rallied to within 59-60, 4:18 left in the game but the Greasebusters unwrapped another 12-5 spurt to ensure victory at 72-64, with 21 seconds left.

Ronald Paraiso scored 18 points for the Jewelers, who coasted to a 51-37 halftime margin and never looked back. The scores:

FIRST GAME
M. Lhuillier 107—Paraiso 18, Alvaro 16, De los Santos 15, Enriquez 14, Jaca 13, Alforque 11, Ocanada 9, Villalarte 8, Dumond 5.

Upland 78—Cabigkis 18, Latonlo 12, Wagway 10, Eleazar 8, Emnacen 8, Mutya 6, Garcia 5, Jabasa 4, Laurantia 3, Fabian 2, Ligan 2.
Halftime: 51-37

SECOND GAME
Dazz 72—Bona 18, Cantona 14, Enterina 14, Pimentel 10, Padilla 5, Mariano 4, Barola 4, De la Cruz 2, Dennison 2, Tecson 2.

ML Kwart Padala 66—Lumantas 17, Sampelo 11, Abajon 9, Celiz 7, Abo 7, Bacudon 5, Libatog 4, Laygo 4, Perez 2.
Halftime: 38-28

UST nips
Las Piñas

GAMES THURSDAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
9:30 a.m.—Lyceum vs PMI
11 a.m.—RTU vs LPC
12:30 p.m.—NCBA vs Letran
2:00 p.m.—Mapua vs UM
3:30 p.m.—UE vs UST
5:00 p.m.—NEU vs SSC

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas walked the tightrope before subduing Las Piñas College, 83-79, in overtime yesterday and sharing the early lead in the 1st Sen. Ambrocio Padilla Memorial Cup basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Also making an impressive debut was Lyceum, which routed Rizal Technological University, 91-69, in the opener of the tournament honoring the first president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The UST Growling Tigers, honing for the coming UAAP cagefest, leaned on Derrick Hubalde, Jake Agleron and former Philippine Youth campaigner Nino Gelig to recover from a sluggish start and frustrate the Las Piñas dribblers.

Hubalde topscored with 18 points, while Agleron and Gelig buried 14 each for the Tigers, who were outplayed most of the way and trailed up to the end of the third quarter, 57-54.

LPC forced the extension at 73-73 behind a snap jumper by Mark Constantino with just one second left.

In contrast, the Lyceum Pirates led from the start and sealed the outcome by the third quarter, 64-43, behind the consistent bombing of the tiny but deadly Dennis Rodriguez.

The 5-foot-6 Rodriguez exploded for 34 points, including five triples, to spark the Pirates. Eldrin Simpas, Chedz Hernandez and Joan Umndap supported him with a combined 32 points.

Philippine Maritime Institute beat National College of Business and Arts, 75-71, in the third game of the event being sponsored by Freego Jeans, Asia Taipan Co., Adidas Phils., Molten and Baker's Fair.

Gold Cup
derby on

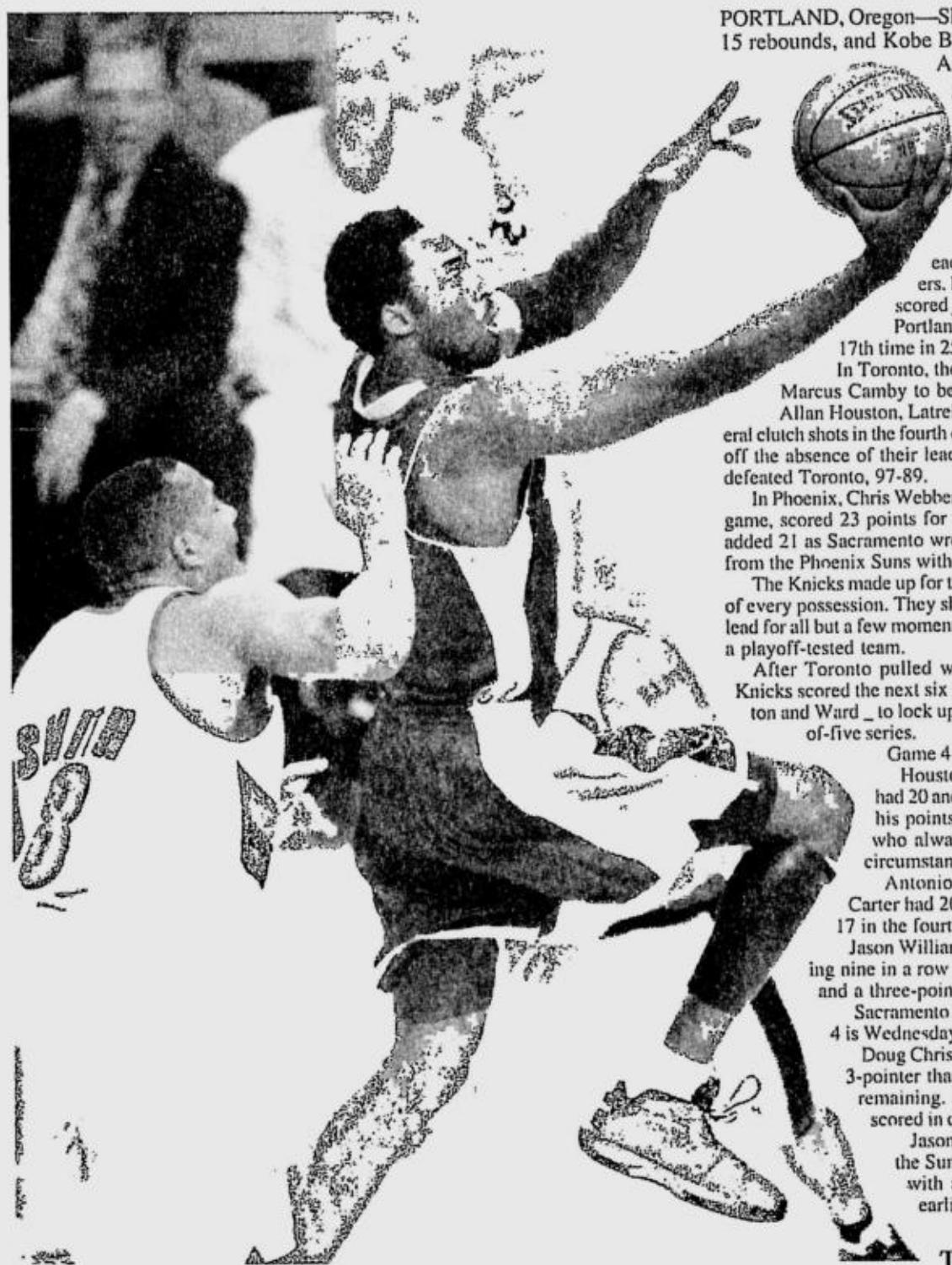
COCKERS from Calocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela will go up against UCAP and NCA stalwarts at 6 p.m. today in the "Gold Cup 5-Cock Derby" at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Businessman William Go is host of the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Meanwhile, scheduled on Saturday is the "Flyover 5-Cock derby", a one-day super event hosted by Bobby Wong.

The 11th UCAP/Phoenix TR EGT Stingers 6-Cock Derby is set on May 8 and 10. Derby hosts are Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Esting Teopenco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez. On May 12 is a special 4-cocker hosted by UCAP matchmakers Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo while the LCC group presents another 5-cocker on May 17.

On May 22 and 24 is the "12th UCAP/ Sagupaan PB San Pablo Guts and Glory 6-Cock Derby", co-hosted by Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino, Wakee Salud and Alex Tang. This event will determine the UCAP Cocker of the Year.



BRYANT (with the ball) of the Los Angeles Lakers laying it up against Steve Smith (left) and Damon Stoudamire of the Blazers. The Lakers won, 99-86.

PORTLAND, Oregon—Shaqille O'Neal had 25 points and 15 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant added 22 points as the Los Angeles Lakers completed a three-game sweep yesterday of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Bryant added a playoff career-high nine assists, and Derek Fisher had 17 points for the Lakers, who will play the Sacramento-Phoenix winner in the second round.

Damon Stoudamire and Steve Smith each scored 25 points for the Trail Blazers. Rasheed Wallace had 13 rebounds but scored just nine points on 4-for-19 shooting. Portland lost for the sixth straight time and 17th time in 25 games.

In Toronto, the New York Knicks didn't even need Marcus Camby to beat the Toronto Raptors.

Allan Houston, Latrell Sprewell and Charlie Ward hit several clutch shots in the fourth quarter Sunday as the Knicks shrugged off the absence of their leading rebounder and shot blocker and defeated Toronto, 97-89.

In Phoenix, Chris Webber, smothered by defenders much of the game, scored 23 points for the Kings, while Predrag Stojakovic added 21 as Sacramento wrestled the homecourt advantage back from the Phoenix Suns with a 104-96 victory.

The Knicks made up for their lack of height by making the most of every possession. They shot 53 percent from the field, held the lead for all but a few moments and performed down the stretch like a playoff-tested team.

After Toronto pulled within two points with 1:46 left, the Knicks scored the next six points — two each by Sprewell, Houston and Ward — to lock up the victory and a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series.

Game 4 is Wednesday night. Houston finished with 24 points, Sprewell had 20 and Glen Rice 18. Ward scored all nine of his points in the fourth quarter for the Knicks, who always seem to play their best when the circumstances are most dire.

Antonio Davis scored 21 points and Vince Carter had 20 for the Raptors, who shot just 5-for-17 in the fourth quarter. Jason Williams had 14 points for the Kings, including nine in a row in the third quarter on two 3-pointers and a three-point play.

Sacramento leads the best-of-five series 2-1. Game 4 is Wednesday night in Phoenix. Doug Christie added 17 points, including a crucial 3-pointer that put Sacramento up 97-92 with 1:03 remaining. Six Kings, including all five starters, scored in double figures.

Jason Kidd had 19 points and 16 assists for the Suns, who had taken the homecourt edge with an 86-83 victory in Game 1 a week earlier.

THERE will be no PBL, PYBL games today.

Goddard too good, claims Formula 3

ROSARIO, Batangas—Mark Goddard emerged the most dominant driver in the inaugural "Philippine Asian Formula 3 Challenge" before a huge weekend crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Goddard held off the challenge of Philip Alvendia in the first race and Jojo Silverio in the second race to take top honors in this six-part series supported by Shell, MOF Company, Toyota, Marlboro, Kilton Motors, Norkis Trading, Llummar and CGU Insurance.

"I'm satisfied with my performance this weekend. It was a nice win, for me although there were some tough moments during the race against Philip

and Jojo," said Goddard, a multi-awarded campaigner who also served as safety driver in both the Formula One Grand Prix and World Touring Car Championship.

Goddard submitted a time of 26:57.491 in the season-opening race in the 2.9-kilometer long and 15-meter wide racetrack, including the fastest lap time of 1:14.774 in the second lap. Alvendia clocked 27:43.971.

A full-time member of the British Racing Drivers Club, Goddard duplicated the feat in the afternoon race, clocking 20:43.482 against Silverio's 20:45.216 and Marave's 21:27.734. Alvendia

wound up fourth in the second race with a time of 21:43.854.

Goddard seized the lead as soon as he got the green light in the starting grid and spent most of the time keeping his rivals in his rearview mirror.

Silverio came close to passing Goddard in several treacherous turns, but Goddard's long experience in international competitions enabled him to overcome Silverio's challenge and silence the home crowd. Among those who watched this inaugural rounds of Formula 3 were BRC executive governor Eddie Pena of MOF Company, Noel Soriano of Shell and Johnny Tan of Kilton Motors.

Schu overtakes Mika in dramatic finish

BARCELONA, Spain — A bad season for McLaren's Mika Hakkinen got even worse in the Spanish Grand Prix.

In the first race in Australia, the Finn's suspension failed and he skidded into a wall after 20-odd laps. In the third GP in Brazil, the two-time series champion stalled on the starting line and got in zero laps.

But what happened in Spain on Sunday was

the cruelest. Into the final and 65th lap with a whopping 42.5-second lead on Michael Schumacher's Ferrari, Hakkinen's clutch blew.

With smoke and sparks spewing from the silver McLaren-Mercedes, he stopped dead between the seventh and eighth turn — maybe 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the finish.

Schumacher went on to his third victory in five races with second place and the first podium

finish for F1 rookie Juan Pablo Montoya. Jacques Villeneuve was third, his first podium in three seasons with BAR-Honda.

Jarno Trulli of Jordan was fourth followed by David Coulthard of McLaren and Nick Heidfeld of Sauber. Schumacher leads the season points race with 36 followed by Coulthard (28). Hakkinen has only four and admitted before the race that Spain was a must-victory.



BATA REYES: Getting better with the passing of time.

Reyes defeats Strickland, earns P1M

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.—Efren "Bata" Reyes lived up to his billing as the "Grand Master of the Philippines" by winning the First Masters 9-Ball Championship here Sunday.

Reyes defeated Earl Strickland of the United States, 13-9, in the finals to take the top prize of \$20,000. Strickland settled for the second prize of \$10,000.

It was Reyes' second win against the multi-

titled American. Reyes also defeated Strickland in their "The Color of Money Part II" one-on-one match in Metro Manila on March 31.

On the one-loss bracket after Strickland defeated him, 13-10, in the quarterfinals. Reyes advanced to the finals by beating European champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, 13-10, in the semis.

Both Reyes and Strickland showed on Saturday why fans and players alike still view

them as the world's top two players as Reyes dumped Tommy Kennedy (USA) with a perfect 13-0 game. He then dispatched Jeremy Jones (USA), 13-8, while Strickland made his way into the final day by besting Steve Davis (England), 13-6, and Alex Pagulayan (Canada/Philippines), 13-7.

Django Bustamante, Reyes' Puyat Sports teammate, finished fifth behind Souquet, third, and Pagulayan, fourth.

The key

THE KEY is not Kobe Bryant. Not even Shaquille O'Neal.

Only some weeks back, even the grizzled watchers of the game were saying the Los Angeles Lakers were doomed. Bound to lose their NBA crown. Reason: The Kobe-Shaq feud was beyond repair.

They were wrong, of course.

Look what's happening. The Lakers had a breeze in disposing of the Portland Trail Blazers. Their 3-0 victory over the supposedly tough Blazers is proof once more that the Lakers seemed set to keep their title.

The key to all that? Phil Jackson, the Lakers coach.

Remember Shaq's first words just minutes after the Lakers won the NBA crown last year?

"This crown is for Phil Jackson, the best coach in the world," he said. Or words to that effect.

For all his talent and brute power, the 7-foot-1 Shaq has never won an NBA crown. Until Jackson became his coach.

In the decade of the '90s, Jackson gave Chicago six NBA titles. He did that with big help from Michael Jordan, the best basketball player ever.

You think Jackson had a piece of cake in each of his dealings with Jordan?

God, when he was around, Jordan was not only a cut above the rest. He was bigger than his coach. Bigger than his team. He was the NBA himself. Jackson's success in reining in the only man who could drink coffee while laying up a basketball is beyond compare.

And, yes, you think it was only Jordan that Jackson had to deal with while he was coaching Chicago? God, how about Dennis Rodman, the baddest man there ever was in basketball?

You have a Jordan and a Rodman in your team and you are able to make them click, anytime I'll call you the greatest coach who ever walked the surface of this planet.

Jordan was the hummin' violin and Rodman the riotous cymbals and Jackson was able to produce—consistently, that is—a symphony out of the two, as melodious yet as a Mozart masterpiece in piano.

That is why when I first heard about the Shaq-Kobe feud threatening to destroy the Lakers, I just shrugged it off as mere hearsay. Balooney. For Chrissakes, how can the genius of Jackson succumb to a tandem whose venom—off-court or otherwise—has the potency of only a house lizard's spittle?

Last year's victory was only the beginning. Wait till Jackson goes full steam.

The key ignites wonders like no other.

SPORTSWATCH

Jones, Hoch prevail

AUSTIN, Texas — Finally, the streak is over. Rosie Jones birdied the first playoff hole in the Kathy Ireland Championship on Sunday to beat South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim and become the first American to win this year on the LPGA Tour. Jones, who birdied the final hole of regulation to force the playoff, turned around and did it again on the same hole to claim the \$135,000 winner's check. Dorothy Joy Delasin scored 67 to salvage a share of sixth place worth \$25,814 (about P1.3M). In Greensboro, North Carolina, Scott Hoch broke a 94-tournament winless streak on the PGA Tour, shooting a final-round 69 Sunday to win the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic.

Diamsay tops bikefest

SHERWIN Diamsay of Tarlac City ruled the Rexona Fiesta Bisikleta Challenge, a 150-kilometer event that started and ended in Tondaligan (Bonuan) Beach in Dagupan City over the weekend. Diamsay clocked 3:59.30 to humble the 52-man field that included the likes of Marlboro Tour veterans Placido Valdez, Bernardo Llentada and Bernard Luzon. Diamsay won the top purse of P5,000 staked in the individual event of the series sponsored by Rexona. Reynaldo Navarro of Mangaldan A finished second in 4:40.33, while Luzon, skipper of the San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija team who was also adjudged the most aggressive rider, settled for third in 4:40.37. Eric Obosa, also of Mangaldan A, placed fourth (4:40.40) and owned the Eagle of the Mountain honors, while Dagupan City captain Santy Bernachea finished fifth, also in 4:40.40.

Hermoso Batangas champ

ROLAND Hermoso of Standard Insurance Toyota Alabang Race Team ruled leg one of the 12-race Formula Toyota Cup Series by winning the two races at the Batangas Racing Circuit last Sunday. Hermoso, who overcame his 13-year "first race jinx," dominated the 7-car Formula Toyota field all the way from pole position, beating both Enzo Pastor and Kirk Arambulo in race 1 and Joel Retuya and Pastor in race 2.

Abalos kegfest guest

MMDA chairman Benjamin Abalos will be guest of honor at the opening of the 33rd MTBA (Manila Tenpin Bowling Association) invitational championships at 1 p.m. today at Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue. Abalos will give an inspirational talk and make the ceremonial roll with former congressman Peping Cojuangco, PSC Commissioner Richie Garcia, Rear Admiral and Coast Guard head Reuben Lista, PBC president Steve Hontiveros and Hall-of-Famer Bong Coo.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs - First Round San Antonio vs Minnesota Game #4 at 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA- The Harvey Penick Invitational, Second Round at 11 a.m. (r), Third Round at 5 p.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: WTA Family Circle Cup, Finals at 2:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
ATP Atlanta Tennis Challenge, Finals at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

SSS salutes the Filipino workers

A steadfast commitment to Social Security



Fidelity through good times and bad - this is the hallmark of an unwavering commitment. Pushing on its 44th year, the Social Security System (SSS) has remained steadfast in its promise of a socially secure future for the Filipino people.

Over the past three years, the regional currency crisis and a stagnant economy have been an unshakable scourge for both the business community and the working class. These prevailing conditions, however, have not prevented the SSS from issuing even more benefits.

Performance Benchmarks

As the financial sector cringed at a pallid investment climate, the SSS banked on the valuable monthly contributions of its members and prudent investment management as it gave out close to P33.9 billion in retirement, death and funeral, disability, sickness, maternity, medical, and rehabilitation benefits last year. The amount of total benefits extended to SSS members rose by more than P5.1 billion or 18 percent when compared with the P28.8 billion released back in 1999.

On September 1 last year, the SSS effected a ten percent across-the-board increase in monthly pensions and a 25 percent increase in funeral benefits. Translated into actual figures, the SSS increased the amount released as retirement pension by 21 percent to P14.3 billion from P11.9 billion in 1999. Death and funeral grants also leaped upwards by more than 19 percent from P11 billion paid out in 1999 to P13 billion released over the whole of year 2000. Overall, disability, maternity, sickness, and medical assistance also increased by more than half a billion compared to the previous year.

Investments Working for SSS Members

In order to provide increasing benefits to its members, the SSS relies on two basic sources of income - earning from investments and member contributions.

The importance of prudently managing the SSS investment reserve fund which stands close to P174.6 billion as of year-end 2000 is underlined by the fact that although the SSS collected only

P30.3 billion in member contributions, it was able to extend P33.9 billion in benefits. Furthermore, SSS was still able to reflect a year-end 2000 net profit of over P4.6 billion.

The key to this phenomenon is the over P12.3 billion in investment income which was used to fund current obligations to members and further increase various benefits such as retirement pensions and funeral grants.

Indeed, successful investment strategies play a crucial role in ensuring the viability of the SSS. Over the past three years, from 1998 to 2000, SSS earned a total of P49.4 billion from investments or an average of P16.5 billion per year representing an annual rate of return of 11.5 percent.

Since its inception in 1957, the SSS has undertaken 23 benefit increases and enhancements while only increasing the employer-employee contribution rate four times. The current employer-employee contribution rate pegged at 8.4 percent has remained unchanged since 1980.

Another striking statistic is on average, only about three-percent of an SSS member's salary goes into contributions. This contribution rate appears minuscule when compared to deduction rates in other countries such as Singapore, which is at 20 percent, and the Netherlands, which is at over 25 percent.

The SSS Charter: Ensuring Prudent Fund Management

Because of the invaluable role that investment income plays in ensuring social security, the SSS

Committee composed of the three highest SSS officials. Proposals approved by the Executive Management Committee are then further evaluated by a board of SSS commissioners who belong to the Investment Oversight Committee. A final decision is made by the Social Security Commission composed of nine representatives from labor, management, government, and the general public. These layers of screening committees ensure that there is due diligence, thorough deliberation, and openness as well as transparency in making investment decisions.

In recognition of the potential of the equity market, legislators have amended the Social Security charter twice. The first amendment in 1986 allowed the SSS to invest up to 10 percent of its reserve fund into private equities. The next amendment in 1997 increased the initial limit of 10 percent to 30 percent.

These moves from the legislative branch of government reflect the global trend in pension fund management implemented by countries such as the US, Japan, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, and Spain.

In 1997, the pension fund of these countries reached a combined total of US\$ 8.5 trillion, 54 percent of which was invested into equities. The California Public Employees Retirement System which stood at US\$ 160 trillion as of 1999, is the largest pension fund in the US, the third largest in the world, and mostly invested in private equities.

Facing a Worldwide Challenge with Foresight and Sensitivity

Pension funds all over the world are facing challenges that were not present some five or six decades ago. The life expectancy, for one, has been dramatically increasing by and large due to advances in medicine and technology which results in better nutrition, more sophisticated medical care, and an improved quality of life. There has also been a dramatic change in lifestyle such as shorter working hours and a growing preference for informal, flexible working arrangements.

Overall, demographic changes such as these have strained pension funds all over the world including the Philippines since contributions have not been able to keep up with increasing benefits.

Although the current reserve fund will last well into the year 2015, the SSS already recognizes this global trend and is thus short-listing measures that will ensure the long-term viability of the SSS reserves.

combined employer-employee rate of 8.4 to 10 percent is one solution.

The SSS, however, recognizes that now is not the time for such an adjustment knowing the challenges businesses and workers are currently undergoing.

It is in balancing both foresight and sensitivity to the immediate needs of its members that the SSS proves itself faithful and steadfast in its commitment as a reliable partner in providing social security for each and every Filipino.



Charter spells out a decision making process prior to making an actual investment while imposing ceilings on the types of investments the SSS can undertake.

All investment proposals are scrutinized by a series of committees prior to approval. First, proposals detailing an investment opportunity are screened by the Investment Planning and Strategy Committee composed of SSS senior investment and finance sector officers.

If the Investment Planning and Strategy Committee gives the proposal a thumbs-up, it is then elevated to the Executive Management

A salute to the heroes of the global economy

The pages of Philippine lore teem with stories of countless champions who dedicated a lifetime and gave up their lives for their motherland. Though the days of taking up arms in a revolution against conquerors are already long gone, modern history is not bereft of heroes of the same caliber.

Today, as the nation celebrates Labor Day, the Social Security System (SSS) salutes the new heroes engendered by the new global economy - the world-class Filipino worker.

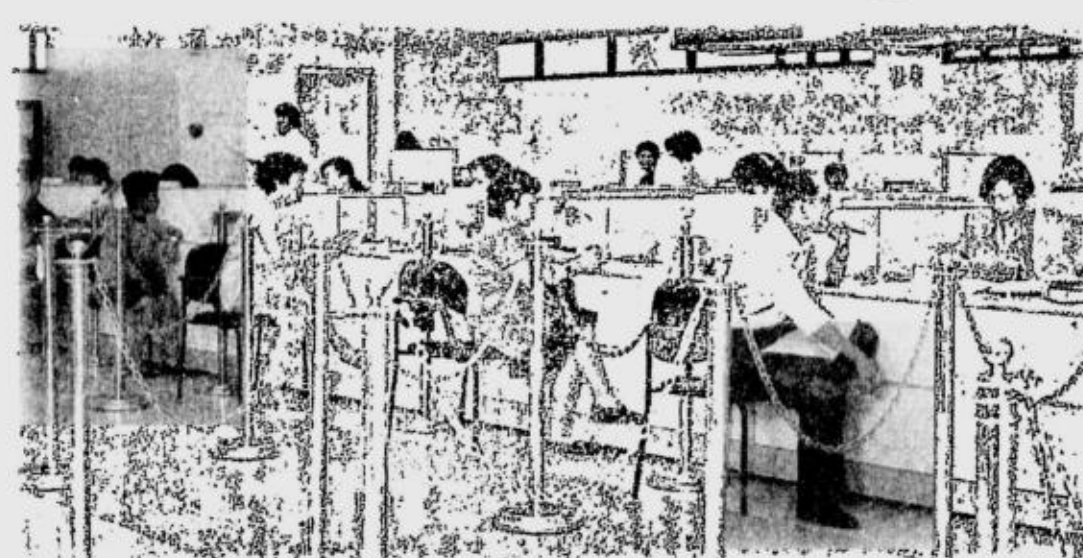
Indeed, every working Filipino - from the simple blue-collared laborer, to the average office worker, to the overseas Filipino worker (OFW) - deserves an accolade for giving their own small, but nonetheless crucial contribution, to the local economy.

This salute from the SSS is more than just a symbolic gesture but a concrete commitment through a "covenant of service", a philosophy targeted at improving service delivery. By the middle of this year, the SSS will make known to the public the processing time of all applications. In doing so, the SSS improves accountability by giving the public a yardstick to measure efficiency and reliability.

Helping Heroes in Foreign Shores

The commitment of the SSS to a socially secure future for workers reaches beyond Philippine shores and embraces even the OFWs who have chosen to sacrifice abroad in the hope of providing their families with a brighter future.

This Labor Day, the SSS is launching a voluntary provident fund dubbed as the SSS Flexi-Fund for OFWs that will supplement the mandatory program. OFWs have the option of



setting aside an amount greater than their regular mandatory contribution.

Currently, most OFWs contribute about US\$20 for the mandatory SSS program. As such, any amount in excess of the initial US\$20 shall be credited to the member's Flexi-Fund. This encourages OFWs to take advantage of their productive years by saving a greater portion of their income for future needs. By entrusting these savings to the SSS, Flexi-Fund members are guaranteed of returns that are equal to, or even higher than prevailing 91-day treasury bill rates.

The accumulated Flexi-Fund can be availed of in a variety of ways. Members may opt to

hold-on to their Flexi-Fund until retirement and then cash it out as a lump-sum or in the form of monthly pensions on top of the regular pension they receive from the mandatory program. Others may opt to avail of the cumulated balance to finance housing improvements, or educational needs, or as seed capital.

While the program is initially launched for OFWs, the Flexi-Fund will eventually be expanded to include SSS members in the Philippines.

Helping Save Heroes

Even heroes need help sometimes... One morning in July of last year, the Payatas

New man at the helm



For Vitaliano N. Nañagas II, the gargantuan task of fund management is a responsibility beyond compare. Indeed, this guiding philosophy is in perfect harmony with the core values of the Social Security System (SSS) where he has served as president and chief executive officer since January this year.

As the top man in SSS and concurrent Chairman of the Social Security Commission, the most valuable tools of President Nañagas are his extensive experience and training in both investment banking and corporate management.

His first priority is to improve service delivery through a "covenant of service", which will be launched in the middle of this year. Although the SSS inherently strives to constantly improve service delivery, making a transparent, widely-known commitment of its processing time takes public service to the next level. In doing so, members have a concrete standard to measure the quality of service that they are receiving.

He is also set on improving collection and one of the strategies to do this is to take legal action against employers who do not remit member contributions. He will aggressively pursue fiscal discipline within the organization and improve the quality of SSS investments to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the fund.

Nañagas worked with Citibank for over a decade during which he headed the financial services and capital market groups. Among his career highlights are a six-year stint as president and vice-chairman of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation from 1988 to 1994, after which he moved on to be president of the Philippine Stock Exchange and chairman of the Philippine Central Depository Inc. from 1996 to 1997.

Serving as financial and management consultant for various local and multinational companies, Nañagas is a much sought after speaker in banking, investments, and finance seminars in both local and foreign graduate schools. Nañagas graduated from De La Salle University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce. He pursued further studies taking the Masters in Business Management program at the Asian Institute of Management where he graduated with distinction. □

dumpsite collapsed and buried hundreds of squatter shanties causing a still unresolved number of deaths while leaving scores wounded and homeless.

Early this year, Mayon Volcano erupted wreaking havoc on the peaceful lives of Albay residents. Further down south, the Mindanao conflict claimed numerous lives and displaced countless thousands of families.

As these natural and man-made tragedies unfolded, the SSS management and employees reached into their own pockets and squeezed their creative juices in mounting various fund drives. The results? The SSS was able to come up with more than P600,000 as assistance for Payatas and Albay residents. Meanwhile, the SSS Mindanao-North Cluster was able to source and distribute relief goods at the Butuan Elementary School and other evacuation sites through a Run-for-A-Cause charity program.

Through the highs and lows of the nation, the SSS has constantly been on the side of Filipino heroes. And to these champions, the ultimate salute - a socially secure future during their productive years lasting well into the twilight of their heroic lives. □



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Former wrestling champion dies

DALLAS — Johnny Valentine, a former professional wrestler whose career was shortened by injuries in a 1975 plane crash, has died. He was 72. He died Tuesday at a hospital near his home in the Fort Worth suburb of River Oaks, his family said. Valentine was US heavyweight champion in October 1975, when a plane carrying him and four others ran out of fuel and crashed. He sustained a broken back, foot and hand and never wrestled again. AP

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Mayor bags PEACE meet title

DENTIST Jenny Mayor agreed to a quick draw with top seed Dennis San Juan in the last round, then edged the latter in the tiebreak to win the Harmony section in the seventh leg of the Philippine Executive Chess Express (PEACE 2001) held recently at Land Bank's multi-purpose hall in Makati City. Ramil Acosta of the DECS' Division of City Schools was the top performer in the serenity section with 3.5 points.

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MON - FRI (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

RP athlete commits suicide at Rizal tower

BY JUNE NAVARRO

A 23-YEAR-OLD member of the country's pencak silat team reportedly

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FOREST TUESDAY MAY 1 312-3982

killed himself yesterday morning after learning that his girlfriend had left him.

Police said Jerome Quimsing, 23, was found hanging from the fourth floor landing of the north tower of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex around 2 a.m. after having a drinking spree with his roommate Andrew Cuyugan.

Cuyugan, a member of the national baseball team, said Quimsing lamented that his girlfriend had already found a new boyfriend.

After consuming nine bottles of beer, Cuyugan added Quimsing went up to the fourth floor of the tower, smoked and called her girlfriend instead of taking a rest in their quarters located at the third floor.

Quimsing was later found hanging by the neck using a belt and a skipping rope.

Pencak silat is a sport using a combination of martial arts and ballet and is popular in Indonesia.

The police, however, only succeeded in getting Quimsing's body at 1 p.m. His body was brought to the Tres Amigos Funeral Parlor in Paco a few hours later.

Quimsing, who hails from Davao City, is one of pencak silat's aspirants for the Southeast Asian Games. Chair Carlos Tuason said the Philippine Sports Commission will shoulder all the funeral expenses. He added the PSC already notified Quimsing's relatives of his demise. With reports from Jerome Aning and Carina Roncesvalles

Vietnamese rule Asian Zonal

BY ROY LUARCA

AN ALL-VIETNAMESE cast will represent Asian Zone 3.2a in the World Chess Championship.

Grandmaster Nguyen Anh Dung forced Filipino hopeful Bong Villamayor to a draw to clinch the men's crown, while Dao Thien Hai bested top seeded Indon Utut Adianto in a four-game playoff for second place.

Nguyen and Dao thus claimed the two male berths allotted to the zone even as their compatriot, WGM Hoang Thanh Trang, ruled women's play and also advanced to the world championship.

Unable to find a winning line, Villamayor agreed to split the point with Nguyen after 57 moves of Queen's Pawn game, giving the Hungary-trained Vietnamese 7 points after nine rounds of play at the Grand Boulevard Hotel-Manila.

The victory netted Nguyen \$3,600 (about P180,000) in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and supported by Pagcor, Grand Boulevard Hotel, the Social



TRANG

JESS YUSON

Security System and College Assurance Plan, Inc.

Held to a draw by Indon IM Denny Juswanto, 2000 champion Dao wound up with 6.5 points in the company of Adianto, who defeated Ildelfonso Datu in 31 moves of a Slav.

In the semi-active playoffs, Dao won the first 25-minute game, but Adianto took the next to force the five-minute tiebreakers. Dao took the first game and then held the Indon to a draw to earn the trip to the world championship in November.

Villamayor emerged with 5.5 points, the same score posted by Juswanto, IM Mark Paragua and Gonzales.

If any consolation, Datu and Gonzales earned IM results with 4.5 and 5.5 points, respectively.

GM Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio, the 1998 Zonals titlist, hurdled their last assignments to finish with 5 points each.

The Filipinos can still earn slots to the world championship if they fare well in the other Asian Zonal slated in India in August.

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■ Erap loyalists
storm Makati
A25



METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

POLICE THEORY

Goonns behind blasts

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA

POLICE yesterday denied that Sunday's grenade blasts at the Gotesco Grand Central mall in Caloocan, where 42 people were injured, were the handiwork of deposed President Estrada's supporters out to destabilize the Arroyo-Macapagal government.

Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief, said the incident was a "simple" robbery and his men are now tracking down the suspects, said to be members of the notorious "Martilyo" gang.

Investigators dropped the terrorism angle after they recovered the hammer used to smash the glass casings of Seiko Jewelry Square located on the third floor of the shopping mall.

The robbers usually operate on a Sunday and use hammers to destroy jewelry

showcases, said Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, chief of the station investigation and intelligence bureau.

A witness who refused to be identified pointed to the picture of one Khadafi Hamsa, 38, a native of Cotabato City, when police showed her a collection of mug shots of felons yesterday.

According to police records, Hamsa and four other alleged members of the Martilyo gang were arrested for allegedly robbing the same jewelry store on June 11, 1999.

The other suspects were identified as ex-Army Sgt. Ruben de Castro, 39, Toks Abdulaa, 20, Aratok Colinlang, 37, and Joel Mama, 26.

Supt. Mantele denied reports the suspects were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The 1999 robbery case was dismissed when the shop owner, a Mrs. Ching, refused to cooperate with investigators, PO2 Joel Aquino said.

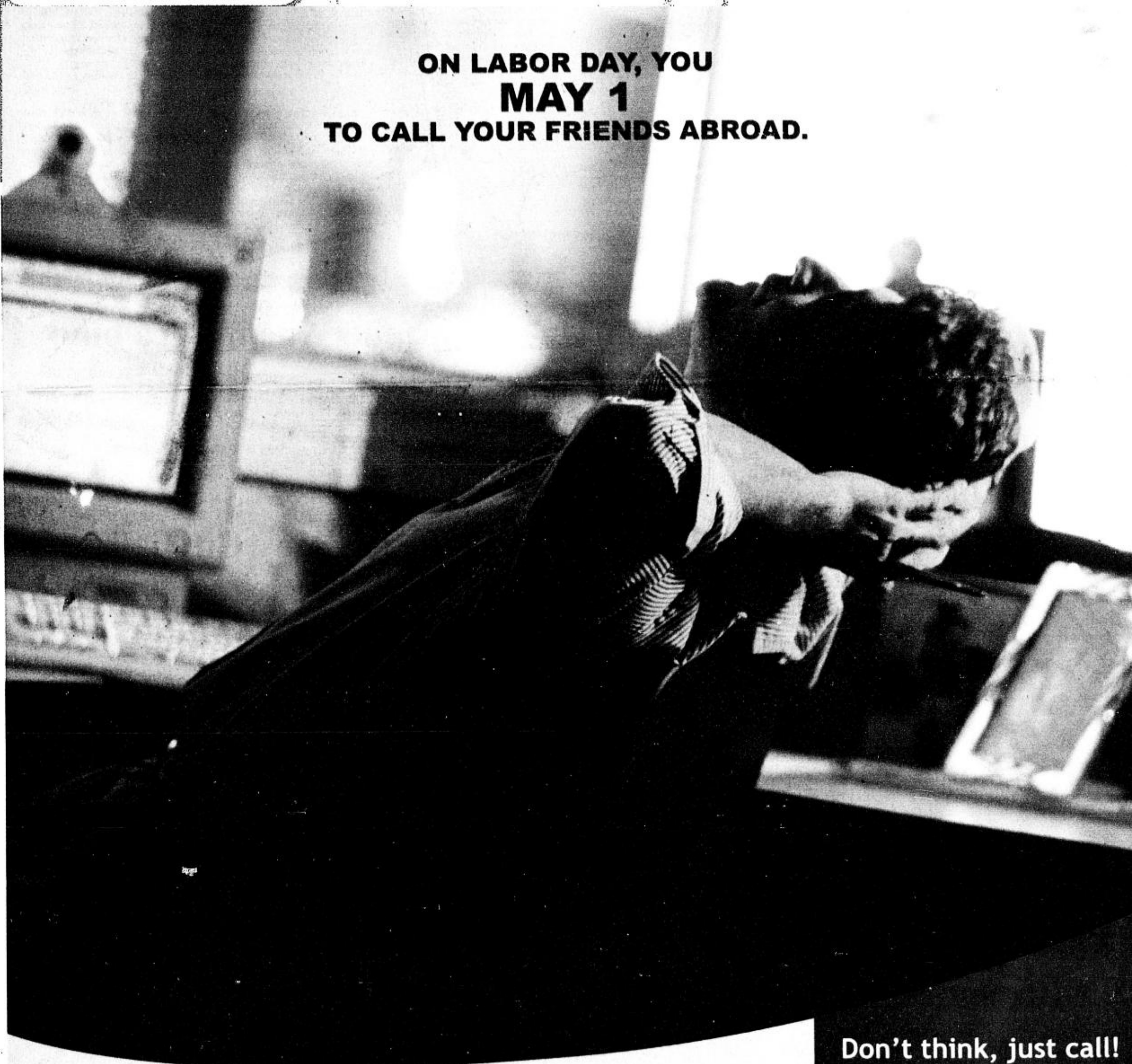
GOONS BEHIND/A24



A POLICEMAN guards the blast site at the basement of Grand Central Mall, Caloocan City hours after unidentified men lobbed two grenades on Sunday. DENNIS SABANGAN

SMART IDD

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AFP chief, Roco vow end to ROTC

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE PHYSICAL agony of male college students required to undergo grueling military training for two years could end soon.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Education Secretary Raul Roco yesterday vowed to work for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

Roco announced yesterday that he had gotten the support of newly installed AFP chief Villanueva for the elimination of the ROTC in the

college curriculum, removing the biggest stumbling block to the passage of a Senate bill pushing for the same.

In a press briefing, Roco said he met Villanueva in Malacañang yesterday and raised the issue of ROTC, which recently claimed the life of an engineering student who squealed on irregular practices related to ROTC at the University of Sto. Tomas.

"Ayaw ko rin nuon," Roco quoted Villanueva as saying when he discussed the Senate bill with the AFP chief.

"Before the Armed Forces was opposing the bill, so I'm really happy now that I have the support of the AFP chief," he said, adding he would ask President Macapagal to certify as urgent the bill abolishing the ROTC.

Roco filed a Senate bill pushing for the abolition of the compulsory military instruction for male college students, and making the ROTC a "voluntary" training for students interested in the military service.

The bill also provided for an alternative civil or community service, preferably during summer, "so the

students can fulfill the requirements of participation in national life."

"What we really need is bonding among the young people in terms of national development," Roco said.

He cited the death of second year UST student Mark Chua, who was killed allegedly in relation to his exposé about the bribery and extortion attempts in the UST Military Science and Tactics, which was published in the UST official paper The Varsitarian.

Chua had accused the department of taking bribes from cadets who want exemption from the

ROTC. He disappeared on March 15, and his body was recovered three days later.

"This is a genuine issue. Somebody died because of this. Let's learn from the death of Chua," Roco said.

The chief of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports said he would ask the National Coordinating Council for Education to look into the matter. He also ordered the UST to find the culprits behind Chua's death and prosecute them immediately. *With reports from Gladys Tolete and Lady Ann Briguera*



ROCO

Velarde's support for Erap

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



DEPOSED President Estrada might be intellectually challenged but he has the skill to agitate the masses. He is a real demagogue.

A college dropout and former messenger, Erap's past acting career is serving him well among the poor and ignorant sector of the citizenry. The underprivileged citizens are staging "poor people power" at Edsa. They have heeded the call of their idol who claims that he was deposed unconstitutionally by the rich led by the Makati elite.

Erap has not only succeeded in fomenting a class war—rich vs poor—he has also pitted the Catholic Church against the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC). Members of the INC, a politically powerful religious sect, form the bulk of the crowd at Edsa.

God forbid, but it seems that this country is fast approaching the situation in Northern Ireland where Catholics and Protestants are killing each other.

The Catholics composed the majority group in both Edsa I and Edsa II which deposed dictator Marcos and incompetent and im-

moral Estrada.

Erap is now getting back at the local catholic Church by pitting it against the minority but very cohesive INC. INC members vote as one for political candidates endorsed by their head, Erano "Ka Erdie" Manalo. In some instances, INC members ganged up on "Gentiles" who got into a fight with their *kapatid*.

Manalo, a level-headed man, asked his followers to gather at Edsa to add to the number of pro-Estrada supporters. Most INC members also belong to the poor but they are a well disciplined lot. It is said that big companies like Henry Sy's SM Shoemart hire INC members because they don't strike. Of course, the church leadership is behind the assurance of "no strike" among its members.

Many observers are surprised why Manalo has allowed himself and his church to be used by Erap when it should have been the other way around. The church uses politicians it thinks can help its members. Political candidates practically kneel before Manalo for his endorsement.

In only a few occasions has the INC leadership gone back to politicians it has helped win to demand payment of debt. The church uses its power sparingly.

It boggles the mind why the INC is now in the forefront of the "poor people power" rally at Edsa.

Is Ka Erdie trying now flexing the INC's muscles?

Erap is being supported by El Shaddai, a Catholic cult led by Mike Velarde.

Velarde is fighting for survival and using his about two million followers to support Erap. His survival depends on the reversal of Erap's fortunes. In the unlikely event that Erap is reinstated, the charges of plunder being readied by the present administration against Velarde would be dropped.

Velarde, a confessed heavy gambler who faced many estafa charges for issuing bouncing checks, allegedly

defrauded the government of hundreds of millions of pesos in a real estate deal. The deal, where the government bought Velarde's piece of land, took place during Erap's time.

Velarde's followers are fanatics.

If Velarde ordered his followers to jump into the Pasig River, they would follow blindly.

Now, since Velarde has allowed himself to be used by Erap, it's a case of a demagogue leading another demagogue.

Congratulations to the residents of Tabaco, Albay, which became a city recently.

I can never forget the rustic beauty of Tabaco of the old days. I found the place alluring because it is beneath the magnificent and breathtaking Mayon Volcano.

Most of all, I came to love the residents whom I found simple and hospitable to a fault.

(This column was written before Iglesia Ni Cristo Executive Minister Erano Manalo ordered a stop to the live broadcast of dzEC and Net 25 of the so-called "Edsa III" and the pullout of INC members from the Edsa Shrine.—Ed.)

Killing in Malate bar puts Atienza in a bind

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza was forced yesterday to order police visibility following the fatal beating of a 20-year-old man at a popular bar in Malate on Friday.

Atienza ordered the speedy arrest of the suspects.

He also asked the Western Police District to increase its visibility in the Malate area.

Daniel Richard Hake III, single and a resident of San Andres Street, Malate, died of extreme "epidermal hematoma" and injuries on his internal organs after he was involved in a brawl at the Arts Venue on Taft Avenue in Malate.

Investigators said that Hake, his girlfriend Michelle Reyes and three unidentified male friends, went to the bar about 1 a.m. During their stay, one of Hake's companions got into

an argument with another group of customers.

Hake tried to intervene, but the suspects, who have not yet been identified, ganged up on him, police said.

Hake's companions rushed him to the Ospital ng Maynila. He was later transferred to the Philippine General Hospital where he died at about 3:50 a.m.

Malate and neighboring Ermita are dubbed as the tourist belt in

Manila and are host to restaurants, bars, and other entertainment spots patronized by the youth and tourists.

Atienza assured Malate residents and visitors that last Friday's mauling was an isolated case.

But critics of the Manila mayor claimed otherwise, stating that peace and order has deteriorated under his watch. *With Jessa Raflares and JP Andaquig*

Six of 16 minors back in Pasay City jail

BY ALCUIN PAPA

IT'S back to prison for six of the 16 minors who escaped from the Pasay City Jail last Saturday.

Inmates Christopher Marilag Eduardo Mortal, Anthony Leti were recaptured by police shortly after breaking out of their detention cells at around 10:30 p.m.

The other inmates Cesar Fajardo, Rafael de Obleta, Joeben Ogayan were surrendered by their relatives to the police. All the suspects have been charged with theft and were due to be released after a month.

According to Insp. Josephine Pacadajen, deputy warden for females

and minors of the Pasay City Jail, the inmates were temporarily transferred to the newly renovated women's cell located at the ground floor of the jail because they had been visited by representatives from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The Unicef officials helped fund the construction of the facility for minors beside the Pasay City Jail.

The minors allegedly used a metal saw to cut off the bars of the windows of their cell. Police believe they were aided by construction workers from a nearby work site.

When the bars of the windows were sawed off, the escapees climbed out of the window, which

led to the rear part of the building. Once outside, the inmates scattered to different directions.

Alerted by the escape, the jail guards managed to recapture the three escapees.

The warden said that they need not punish the escaped minors by adding more days to their jail terms. "The rehabilitation of these youth offenders is what is important," said Pacadajen, a social worker.

The Pasay police is still looking for the remaining 10 minors, namely, Jeffrey Tan, Ociel Beltran, Errol Oquindo, Jonathan Nunez, Joel Banaba, David Gutierrez, Romy dela Cruz, Alvin Celebrado, Edgardo Bernabe, Rowel Alba.

Due to the incident, Chief Insp. Isagani Gamino, incumbent jail warden of the Pasay City Jail, was replaced by Senior Supt. Augusto Retumban.

SUMMER FUN

Two boys enjoy the great outdoors at the Quezon City Circle by climbing the great trees with the use of a rope. EDWIN BACASMAS

Catechist rapes 5-year-old friend

A CATECHIST gave a 5-year-old girl more than just lessons in religion.

Pedro Pateno, 19, of Banahaw Condominium in Mandaluyong, and identified as a catechist, allegedly raped the girl while he was giving her a bath on Saturday, police said.

The girl's mother told police that Pateno was a friend of the family and regularly stayed in their house.

She said he even gave her daughter a bath at about 12 noon on Saturday.

The victim's mother said she did not have an inkling that her daughter was abused until Pateno left their house at about 8:30 p.m. also on Saturday.

The girl then told her mother that her genitals were painful. When questioned further, the girl's mother said her daughter told her that Pateno had raped her. She then brought her daughter



to the Mandaluyong Hospital and was referred to Camp Crame for a medical examination.

Pateno is now detained at the Mandaluyong police station and facing rape charges. *Agnes Donato and Nickson Ryan Matias*

P32-M smuggled rice intercepted

BY ALCUIN PAPA

SOME P32 million worth of smuggled rice were intercepted by agents of the Bureau of Customs over the weekend at the South Harbor, Port Area in Manila.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said the smuggled rice from Singapore were contained in some 32,000 bags and loaded into 78 20-footer container vans inside four different foreign sea vessels.

The MV Kama Bhum was loaded with 2,000 bags of the smuggled rice inside five 20-foot containers. They were declared as "plastic sheets" and consigned to Rjean Grace Trading Co. with address at PYF Building in Ermita, Manila.

Around 2,000 more bags of the smuggled rice were contained in five 20-foot containers also inside the same ship. The shipment was consigned to Sun Grace Trading also of the same address and was declared as "paper one-sided glue."

Villanueva said these two consign-

ees do not belong to the list of accredited importers with the Bureau of Customs.

The other vessel was the MV Seven Seas Aurora loaded with some 9,200 bags inside 23 container vans consigned to RCL Feeders Phils. Inc. with address at the 10th floor Ayala-Life-FGU Center on Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The shipment was declared as "animal feeds."

The MV Citrowati was also loaded with some 8,800 bags inside 20 container vans and declared as "feeds fit for animal consumption." This shipment was consigned to Darylmine Trading of 15 IBP Road, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

Finally, the MV Jitra Bhum was loaded with 10,000 bags of smuggled rice inside 25 container vans which were also declared as "feeds fit for animal consumption." This shipment was also consigned to Darylmine Trading.

Operatives of the Intelligence and Enforcement Group of the bureau led by Deputy Commissioner Rey Allas intercepted the shipment.

8 robbers take cell phones, valuables in Valenzuela City

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA

EIGHT heavily armed robbers stormed a store selling liquefied petroleum gas and took at least P250,000 in cash and personal belongings yesterday morning in Valenzuela City.

The still unidentified suspects robbed Metro North Gas Corporation at 26 Barangay Lawang Bato in Valenzuela at 9:50 a.m., said Insp. Salvador dela Cruz of the Valenzuela Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau.

Initial investigation showed that three of the suspects knocked on the steel door of the store and forcibly entered the establishment while pointing

guns at security guard Edwin Madao.

Six of the suspects immediately went to the office of store manager Edecel Ayson, 36, of Santolan Road, Gen. T. de Leon in Valenzuela, and took the store's earnings for the day.

Another suspect held a grenade and detained Ayson, the security guards, and other employees in a toilet and threatened to hurl the grenade if they attempted to escape, investigators said.

The robbers took the victims' cellular phones, pieces of jewelry, and other personal items worth about P250,000.

The suspects fled on an unidentified vehicle and are now being hunted down by police.

Goons behind blasts

(From page A23)

On Sunday, the robbers stormed the jewelry store at about 5 p.m., hammered the glass casing and took several pieces of jewelry of still undetermined amount, Aquino said.

To elude security guards, the suspects hurled a grenade on a corridor leading to the third level parking area at 5:05 p.m. A minute later, they threw another grenade in front of the crowded Jollibee restaurant on the second floor.

The explosions injured 42 people,

mostly women and children. Among those in critical condition are saleslady Charry Orquin, 24, Mario and Vilma de Leon, and security guard Jose Prenia Jr., 38.

Police recovered a safety pin, a lever, and shrapnel from the fragmentation grenades.

Last year, the Martilyo gang struck four times and robbed jewelry stores in Baclaran, Pasay and the Tutuban mall in Manila.

They also hurled grenades to ward off arresting officers.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Tuesday, May 1, 2001
St. Joseph the Worker

1st Reading: Gen 1:26-2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24
Gospel: Mt 13:54-58

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary
"Isn't he the carpenter's son?" In the mouth of Jesus' fellow country folk, such question sounded demeaning. They were, indeed, amazed over Jesus' authoritative words and deeds. He was just one among them! It is also one way of questioning even one's self-worth. Precisely the good news of God's reign, which Jesus brought, is that one does not need credentials according to worldly standards to find pleasure before God's eyes. And so, the ordinary workers have as much right and dignity as the moneyed and the powerful of this land. After all, why do we seek to be a church of the poor?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW—Illegal possession of firearms—The rule is well-settled that in cases of illegal possession of firearms, 2 things must be shown to exist: (a) the existence of the firearm, and (b) the fact that it is not licensed. However, it should be noted that in People v. Ramos (222 SCRA 557) citing People v. Gy Gesion (60 Phil. 614 [1934]), this Court rules: "xxx Even if he has the license, he cannot carry the firearm outside his residence without legal authority therefore." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Advincula v. Court of Appeals, G.R.N. 131144, October 18, 2000].

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

BY ALCUIN PAPA

MAKATI City yesterday came under siege from supporters of jailed ex-President Estrada who protested in front of the Philippine Stock Exchange, disrupting business and traffic in the country's financial capital.

Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, one of Estrada's sons, led about 2,000 pro-Erap protesters from the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong City to the corner of Paseo and Ayala Avenues in Makati at around 5 a.m. yesterday to denounce the jailing of the former matinee idol.

The deposed president's son told his supporters they were "taking over" Makati and that their presence there was a "victory of the poor against the rich."

"Let us show the ruling class that we Filipinos have the right to rule," JV told the crowd.

As a result of the mass action, stock prices plunged more than two percent in the first half hour of trading, while the peso currency dipped to a three month low of 51.55 against the dollar from its Friday closing of 50.87.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District Office director, fielded anti-riot personnel in full battle gear to the area. He ordered his men to observe "maximum tolerance" in handling Estrada's supporters, some of whom were observed carrying sticks and aluminum pipes.

"When President Estrada was

Erap loyalists storm Makati

ousted earlier this year, there was trouble (on the streets of Makati) between the followers and opponents of Estrada," Gutierrez said. "We don't want that to happen again."

The pro-Estrada marchers held a short program under the statue of martyred hero Benigno Aquino where they lambasted the Arroyo-Macapagal administration and demanded the immediate release of Estrada.

They were seen dancing in the streets just as some of Makati's white-collar office workers were reporting for work. The protest caused massive traffic in the morning rush hour.

Some protesters placed streamers on the statue of Aquino which said "Sigaw ng mahihirap, palayain na si Erap," "Protect the Constitution," and "Vox populi, vox Dei."

Later in the morning, they set up a stage and huge speakers in front of the Philippine Stock Exchange, snarling traffic and sending jitters throughout the business district.

The International School declared a holiday, fearing an outbreak

of violence on the streets like the one on Jan. 19, when Erap supporters held a similar march just a day before Estrada was ousted from power.

Yesterday, JV Ejercito was heard instructing his supporters that if they "see a mestizo, rap him on the nose."

Ejercito was referring to the mostly rich Spanish-Filipinos who dominate the country's business sector.

Some of the financial leaders were alarmed at the development in front of the stock exchange.

"If this escalates, you know what would happen: there would be panic and much more," warned Raul Concepcion, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries. "Business will be at a standstill until this issue is resolved."

Concepcion said the gloomy outlook would remain until after congressional and local elections are held on May 14.

The polls are being touted as the real battleground where President Macapagal's candidates are pitted

against Estrada's men.

Labor, leftist and religious groups, meanwhile, were massing at the Malacañang Palace vowing to protect Arroyo from Estrada supporters who earlier threatened to remove her from office by force.

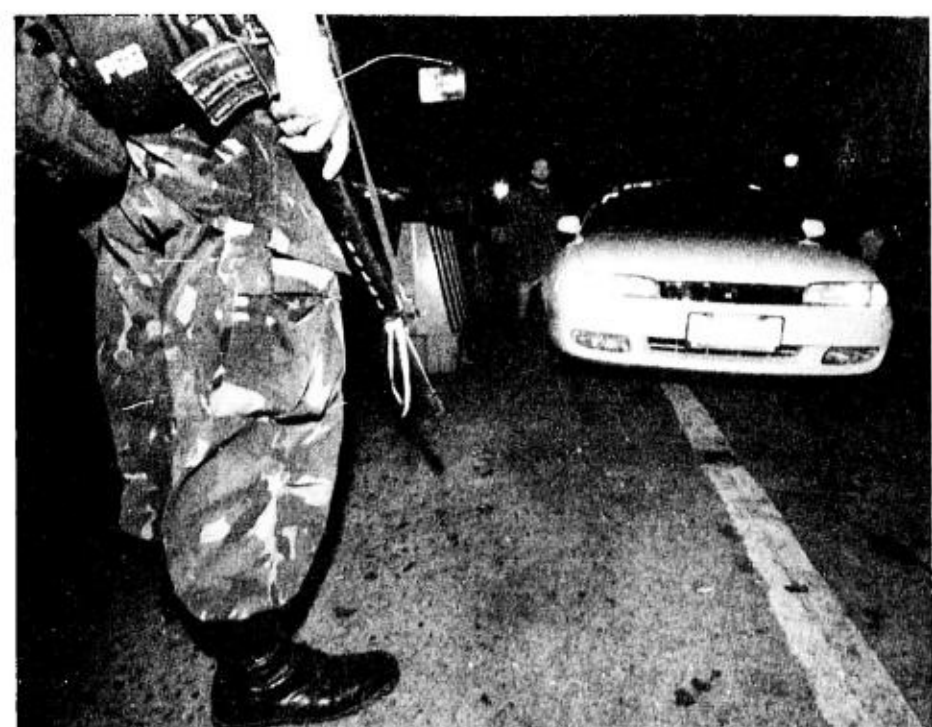
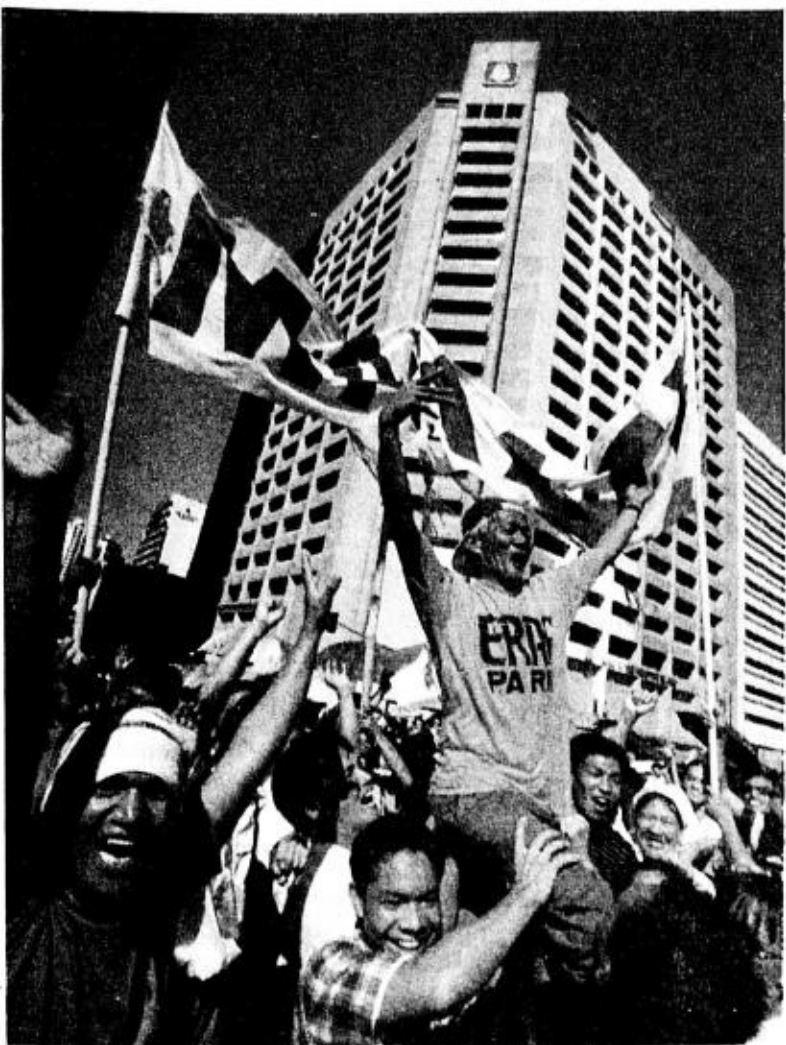
The corner of Ayala and Paseo de Roxas has been the traditional site for mass protests, dating back to the Marcos dictatorship.

The buildings at that corner like the Enterprise, Philam Life, Insular Life and Bank of Philippine Islands closed their windows or placed large wooden planks to protect their glass windows.

The 200 riot policemen from the Southern Police District stationed themselves a block away on Herrera Street.

By noontime, Estrada's supporters had dwindled down to about a few hundred people. Under the scorching heat of the sun, the visibly tired supporters opted to rest under the shades and on sidewalks.

At that time, they no longer held up traffic. *With reports from Nelson Flores, AFP*



PRO-ERAP protesters (counter-clockwise from top) make a siege of Makati yesterday, while military troopers who were sent in from Mindanao impose all-night tight security around Malacañang Sunday, with some taking a nap at dawn yesterday. Erap supporters, in main photo and below it, take a dawn break in their borrowed Edsa nest before moving into Makati yesterday.



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5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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4	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	CHERRY FALLS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA

SM CITY MANILA 8239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM SOUTHMALL 8068888 • 8068782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
8	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM CIBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
4	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	THE MEXICAN

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1	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BLACK & WHITE (Phil. Premiere)

GREENBELT

1	THE MEXICAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	ONSTAGE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	THE MEXICAN
4	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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9	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	HALIK NG SERENA

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2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA 4 (Pasay) tel 831 6603

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2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

st. small Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724 4986

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2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE MEXICAN
4	EXIT WOUNDS
5	HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	EXTREME WARRIOR
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	THE MEXICAN
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INT'NG DUGO
8	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Lo-Lo's CINEMA (Makati City) tel 751 2010 / 892 3349

1	EXIT WOUNDS
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1	ABAKADA...INA
2	WOMAN ON TOP

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1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831 7861

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2	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838 4301 loc. 3376

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	

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3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
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6	RECESS

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3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	THE MEXICAN
5	THE GIFT
6	ABAKADA...INA

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SERENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	EXTREME WARRIORS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	EXIT WOUNDS
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	EXTREME WARRIORS
ROBEN	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
TANDEM-1	ALI MASA RAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	VERTICAL LIMIT / WHERE IS MY CAR

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SERENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
REMAR-2	EXIT WOUNDS

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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 to 191)
CINEMA-1	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-2	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SERENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WOMAN ON TOP
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-6	SAHULING PAGHINTAY
CINEMA-7	INT'NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-12	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-14	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

LORES

CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS CONGENIALITY

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-2	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-3	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Month-long tribute to James Stewart

JAMES Stewart is the TCM (Turner Classic Movies) channel's Star of the Month for May, with 16 of his best starters on view starting May 4.

Stewart's gangling figure, hangdog expression and aw-shucks manner were unusual in a Hollywood (from the '30s to the '70s) dominated by hunks with chiseled features and impressively perfect teeth.

The actor transformed his goof-next-door persona from a liability into an asset, as he played "ordinary" characters viewers could readily identify with.

True to his screen image, Stewart was born (in 1908) in the small town of Indiana, Pennsylvania. He never dreamed of becoming an actor, and in-

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

stead studied civil engineering and then architecture in college.

Then he played small parts in a summer stock theater, whose other members included **Henry Fonda** and **Margaret Sullivan**. Liking what he was doing, he decided to move to New York to pursue a career in acting.

Famous Hollywood columnist **Hedda Hopper** doted on him and recommended him to the movers and shakers at MGM, who signed him to a long-term contract. He started out playing bit parts in movies starring the big-name likes of **Spencer Tracy** ("The Murder Man," 1935), and **Clark Gable** and **Jean Harlow** ("Wife vs. Secretary," 1936).

When Stewart finally got to play lead roles, he did it in well-scripted movies like "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (1939), "It's a Wonderful World" and "The Shop Around the Corner."

There were few other actors who could look right as the kindhearted, sweet-natured characters he played in those movies, so Stewart quickly found himself in a class pretty much all by himself.

In 1940, Stewart won his first Best Actor Oscar for his performance in "The Philadelphia Story," a romantic comedy, opposite Hollywood greats **Katharine Hepburn** and **Cary Grant**.

In 1942, he served as a high-ranking officer in the US Auxiliary Air Force. After the war, when he returned to the film scene, his range widened and he found himself playing less "nice-guy" characters, a sign that he had grown up as an actor.

Most notable were "Rear Window" (1954), "Vertigo" (1958) and "How the West Was Won" (1962).

TCM's month-long tribute to Stewart features this initial line-up of movies: April 4, starting at 9 p.m., "Born to Dance," "Wife vs. Secretary," "After The Thin Man" and "Gorgeous Hussy" (all made in 1936).

In "Born to Dance," Stewart plays a shy sailor

who falls in love with a high-spirited hooper (**Eleanor Powell**). A romantic mix-up occurs when a famous person decides that she needs him as part of her publicity stunt (he saves her dog from drowning).

This film offers the unusual treat of seeing Stewart tap dancing and singing to some wonderful **Cole Porter** songs. This is Powell's first lead role, and it quickly established her as a musical-comedy star.

"Wife vs. Secretary" shows Stewart in a relatively small role of **Jean Harlow's** boyfriend, who tries to entice her into marriage. Harlow played the secretary in the story, while **Myrna Loy** was the wife, and **Clark Gable** portrayed the man they fought over.

Stewart was at his naïve and disarming best in "After The Thin Man," the sequel to the original "The Thin Man." The movie also starred **Will-**

iam Powell and **Myrna Loy**.

Finally, "Gorgeous Hussy," is set in the 1830s. **Jean Crawford** plays the belle of the ball, and many men are after her, including Stewart's character.

Feedback

CONCLUSION of **Ednel Almoradie's** letter on movie titles given new stories based on current events:

"Dracula 2000"—watch the IMF-World Bank suck the life out of our economy.

"Jurassic Park 3"—a mad scientist experiments on how to revive some infamous dead trapos. He breeds a huge monstrosity. Much scarier than the first two films!

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"—about a political clan trying to go back to Malacanang with the help of a president who is captured by his rival and kept on an island!

POWER PLANT CINEMA		
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41		
DOUBLE TAKE - P 13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	EXIT WOUNDS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT - G 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20	NARINING MO BAANG LATEST - P13 10:35, 12:50, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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Part II: May 14, 9 pm

Grand prize :
A 1-carat diamond ring
(1 winner)

Consolation prize :
Hallmark Channel scarf
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see yourself

may 7-14 at 9pm

Join us for a week of special programs
honoring women all over the world.

Contest Rules:

1. This contest is open only to residents of the Philippines. Only one entry per person is allowed. There is no purchase needed to enter the contest.
2. To enter, tune-in to **Hallmark Channel - Women's Week** every night from May 7 to 14 at 9pm on Hallmark Channel (SkyCable Channel 38, HOME Cable Channel 53 and Destiny Cable Channel 25 and other Cable Boss affiliates).
3. Simply answer the following questions:
Question 1: What movie in the Women's Week festival line-up will be premiering on Hallmark Channel on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 13)?
Question 2: Name one Filipina you admire most.
4. Fill out official entry form. Only official entry forms will be accepted. There are only three (3) ways to get official entry forms:
a. Clip-out Print Ad entry forms.
b. Pick-up entry forms at participating National Book Store outlets.
c. Look inside Guide and TV Star cable guide magazines.
All required information should be properly filled-out. Incomplete, typed or entries reproduced by other mechanical methods will be disqualified.
5. Participants must answer all questions. Only entries with correct answers to the first question will be qualified.
6. Participants should be at least 18 years old when they submit the entries.



HALLMARKCHANNEL.COM

7. Entries may be dropped at designated drop boxes in any participating National Book Store outlets nationwide or mail to P.O. Box 3802, MCPO Makati City.
8. Deadline of entries is on May 31, 2001. Winners will be drawn on June 7, 2001 in the presence of Hallmark Channel and Filstar Distributors Corporation executives and a Certified Public Accountant.
9. Employees of Hallmark Channel or any sponsor or their affiliates and/or agencies, and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity and affinity are not eligible to participate in the contest.
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash. The winner must pay any taxes incurred on prizes if any.
11. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from date of notification shall be forfeited upon approval of Hallmark Channel.
12. Winners may claim their prizes from Buensalido & Associates, Suite 701, 7/F Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea St., Legaspi Village. Please bring at least one (1) valid ID and letter of notification.
13. The decision of Hallmark Channel and the judges will be final and binding.
14. The list of winners will be posted on the announcement board of National Book Store Glorietta branch, Ayala Center, Makati City on June 11, 2001.
15. Promo period runs from April 27 to May 31, 2001.



Watch and Win a ONE-CARAT DIAMOND RING!
Question 1: What movie in the Women's Week festival line-up will be premiering on Hallmark Channel on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 13)?

Question 2: Name one Filipina you admire most.

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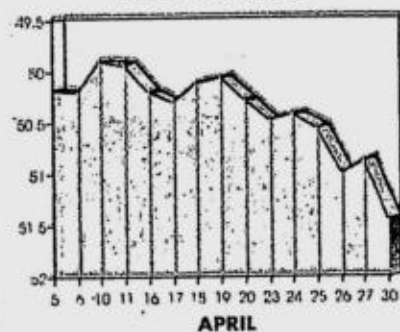
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Stocks plunge, peso eases to 51.45:\$1

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate
P 51.45 = \$1
 As of 5 p.m.,
 April 30, 2001

Y 124.06 = \$1
 The US dollar was trading
 at 124.06 as of 5 p.m.,
 April 27, 2001

GOLD: \$264.50/265.00
 per ounce Hong Kong,
 April 27, 2001

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO
 AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

STOCKS plunged to a six-month low yesterday on mounting political tension, spurred by protest rallies calling for the reinstatement of ousted President Joseph Estrada, traders said.

Tension remained high as loyalists of deposed President Joseph Estrada continued to gather at the Edsa shrine and the military remained on high alert for possible civil unrest.

The rising political tension also jacked up the government's cost of borrowing as the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield rose by almost a quarter point and moved back to double-digit levels at 10.102 percent during yesterday's auction.

The borrowing rate for the six-month bills rose by 0.365 percentage point to 11.324 percent and

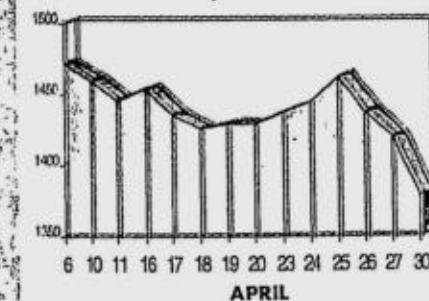
0.357 point to 11.725 percent for the one-year treasury papers.

The peso also weakened to 51.45 to \$1 yesterday from Friday's closing of 50.87.

The peso was propped up from its early low of 51.55 per dollar as the central bank injected an estimated \$20 million to \$30 million in the market, dealers said.

They said the central bank started dollar sales through select foreign banks as the peso sagged beyond 51.35 amid mounting political

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

cal tension after last week's arrest of Estrada.

However, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday ruled out any increase in the central

bank's overnight rates as a tool to prop up a weakening peso.

"The situation is not interest rate-related so we won't do anything on (overnight) interest rates," he said. Buenaventura said the increase in treasury bill yields was part of the general reaction to the political cri-

sis.

"The political situation has made everyone jittery," said Astro del Castillo, research head at A&A Securities. "Investors are taking a safe stance ... it seems what the country gained in (investor confidence) the last 95 days, it lost over the past few days."

"Investors have cleared out of the market while they await to see how the current situation will resolve itself ... they are worried about the possibility of some kind of mob rule," KGI Securities head of sales Fitz Aclan said.

The main index closed down 41.52 points, or 2.92 percent at 1,378.84, its lowest level since Oct. 31 last year when it finished at 1,287.85 after corruption allegations were leveled against Estrada.

Aclan described the latest development as a setback for the

STOCKS/ B3

Bayantel's loan, not Benpres'

LAST April 18, the INQUIRER reported in the Business section ("Lopez eye sale of part of ABS-CBN") that "Benpres is negotiating with creditors for a restructuring of its \$500-million loan and is on the lookout for possible alliances with local telecommunication firms to survive its current financial woes."

The report should have read "Bayantel", not "Benpres."

The INQUIRER regrets the error. The mistake was inadvertent and was not intended to put Benpres in a bad light.

Cojuangco: Moneymaker or just a window-dresser?

PAGE B2

NESTLE Philippines will invest P3 billion to transform its plants here into Asean Supply Centers for infant nutrition and filled milk products for the region.

Nestle Philippines chair and CEO Juan B. Santos said the expansion would involve two factories—the Cabuyao facility, which is the largest volume producer of infant nutrition products in the region today, and the Cagayan de Oro plant, which manufactures filled milk

powder.

He said Nestle would invest nearly P3 billion in both factories over the next two years to supply the needs of Nestle markets in Asean.

This year, Nestle Philippines expects to export more than 25,000 metric tons of milk powder worth \$72 million to neighboring countries in Asean. Export volume is expected to increase by more than 20 percent in 2002.

"It will be recalled that as early as 1991, the Philippines became the Nestle Asean Supply Center for breakfast cereal products. The choice of Cabuyao and Cagayan de Oro factories as Asean Supply Centers demonstrates the Nestle shareholders' confidence not only in our own competence but also in the Philippines under the new administration," Santos added.

Apart from export opportunities, Nestle also said that it expects to

enhance employment opportunities to some 1,000 people in downstream industries through local suppliers of packaging materials, transport and other related services.

Following this development, Nestle said that it would consolidate all coffee manufacturing in Cagayan de Oro factory where it will invest in proprietary technology and new state-of-the-art facilities. This will transform the Cagayan de Oro facility into a full-scale coffee processing plant.

NESTLE/ B3

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Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Monday, April 30, 2001)				CLOSE	VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW			
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES						
BANKS						
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4		15,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73.5	75.5	73.5	75.5		176,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600		90
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16		3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41.5		21,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	213	208	211		89,080
Philippine National Bank	43	43	43	43		18,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5		2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE						
Manulife Financial Corp.	1265	1265	1265	1265		4,680
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	965	950	960		13,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION						
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.		35	36.5	35		36 22,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4		1,850,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	680	650	680		1,180
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3		3,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51		10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	690	675	690		55,410
Intanage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91		200,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.037	0.038	145,500,000	
POWER & ENERGY						
Manila Electric Co. A	40	40.5	40	40.5		16,900
Manila Electric Co. B	54.5	54.5	53	53		730,900
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.56	1.58		4,341,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES						
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1		50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.14		7,006,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4		20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS						
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21		10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38		110,000
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1		1,010,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO						
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75		10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13		179,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	29	29.5	27.5	29		506,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6		10,000
RFM Corp.	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.98		4,200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44.5	44.5	43	43		93,200
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50	48.5	48.5		329,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48		100,000
HOLDING FIRMS						
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1		4,637,000
Abolitz Equity Ventures	1.2	1.2	1.06	1.08	11,181,000	
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75		6,700
A. Soriano Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25		100,000
APC Group Inc.	1700.17		16	16		60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006		2,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26		20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3		8,102,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15		450,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3		1,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36		1,300,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94		150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22.25	22.5	21.75	22		797,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23		2,340,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75		1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86		98,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6		10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.7	0.72		3,620,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28		10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44		13,560,000
Philinvest Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4		10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68		1,080,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46		920,000
Unilwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27		1,200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28		580,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING						
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8		1,000
Muslo Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48		304,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.64	0.64		120,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt. Corp.	20	20	20	20		16,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9		660,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13.5	12.75	13.5		123,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE						
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41		3,880,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.46	0.47		13,440,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53		10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS						
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37.5	37.5	35	36		1,617,200
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680		1,800
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75		38,400
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026		22,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10		1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10		2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10		2,000
OTHERS						
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7		31,000
PROPERTY						
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4		4,447,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23		820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31		5,470,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.88	1.88		8,073,000
Gotelesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045		300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.12	0.12		330,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	7	6.7	6.9		6,474,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.09		7,100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32		5,540,000
MINING						
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8		5,000
Itoyan-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014		1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18		1,240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19		10,000
Omico Corporation	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038		25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014		5,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18		310,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		4,300,000
OIL						
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.021	0.016	0.021		1,100,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042		1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004		33,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004		15,000,000
Pacific	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014		7,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		100,000
SHARES						
Banks & Fin Svc	343,300					52,452,560.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	262,080,170					304,507,755.00
PRO	38,554,000					88,055,040.00
Mining	36,865,000					1,333,900.00
OIL	57,700,000					338,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	395,542,470					446,687,355.00
AVERAGES						
Banks & Fin Svc	598.16					DOWN 2.76
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,870.29					DOWN 57.46
PRO	554.24					DOWN 16.55
Mining	1,138.61					DOWN 15.71
OIL	1.46					DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	727.22					DOWN 7.10
Composite	1,378.84					DOWN 41.52
NO. OF ADVANCES: 7; NO. OF DECLINES: 56; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37;						
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 2,494						

SAN MIGUEL SHOWDOWN

Cojuangco: Moneymaker or just a window-dresser?

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

(Second of a series)

IN repelling the Macapagal administration's efforts to oust Marcos and Estrada crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. as its chair, San Miguel Corp.'s management has been extolling the food and beverage firm's glowing performance under "The Boss."

San Miguel's sales remained steady despite a weak economy. Margins improved due to cost-cutting measures implemented by Cojuangco. Its international businesses stopped bleeding and had started to contribute to the company's bottom line. San Miguel even posted its single biggest profit in its 111-year history during Cojuangco's second tour of duty—he first ruled San Miguel in 1982 to 1986.

So why is the Macapagal administration hell-bent on kicking out Cojuangco as San Miguel chair, apart from being a crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada?

In a petition submitted by the Presidential Commission on Good Government to the Supreme Court Friday, the government accused the Cojuangco-led management of "window-dressing to show better than actual performance."

"The statistics cited by San Miguel should not be swallowed hook, line and sinker," the PCGG said.

The PCGG noted that Cojuangco reverted back P952 million in income tax provisions in 1998 to the 2000 balance sheet "without giving proper justification." The PCGG said this was "apparently done to improve its net profit figure" because San Miguel's bottom line would have been lower by P1 billion.

The PCGG noted that there were reports that some "P5 billion of CIIP oil mills sales were coursed through San Miguel to show higher revenues." It noted that the premium on its investments of P4 billion was amortized for 40 years, "which is too long an amortization period and clearly designed to show better profits."

The PCGG said even if Cojuangco had not spruced up San Miguel's bottom line, San Miguel's profits of P6 billion and P6.8 billion in 1998 and 1999 "only approximate

the company's earnings in 1996. This shows that San Miguel has not really grown during the stewardship of Cojuangco," it said.

Receivables

Another key issue that management has been getting the flak for is San Miguel's ballooning receivables, which surged from P10.744 billion in 1998 to P20.375 billion in 2000 largely due to

Cojuangco's decision to rack up beer volume and boost market share amid a weak economy over the last two years through pricey marketing campaigns and generous perks to dealers.

In a faxed statement to the INQUIRER, San Miguel said its trade receivables increased because the number of its dealers also increased and the company embarked on an aggressive penetration and availability programs for beer and liquor. "We extended credit terms for some dealers as a result of the above programs. These receivables are covered by post-dated checks and we have better records of collections than before," the company said.

San Miguel gave incentives to dealers through easy credit terms—up to 65 days—and other financial subsidies their warehousing and transport needs. This strategy led to a spike in sales volume early in the year as dealers packed their warehouses to the brim.

But while sales volume was increasing, San Miguel's receivables were also rising at an alarming rate, which alarmed several foreign and local stock analysts who noted that the company was virtually buying volumes.

The rise in receivables led to a deterioration in the company's working capital as San Miguel had to use more of its cash to finance sales and forego potential interest earnings and negate any earnings from the company's vast foreign exchange holdings. Analysts pointed out that the high level of receivables also put the company at too much risk in case of an economic collapse.

The aggressive build-up of beer volumes in its dealers' bodegas also backfired in the form of a serious bottle shortage.

The number of bottles being returned to the breweries dropped significantly early last year as beer in warehouses continued to gather dust. This forced San Miguel to buy more

RAMON Ang: Is he the power behind the throne?



bottles to sustain production levels at its breweries, a move that benefited its packaging division.

With an increased demand for beer bottles, including plastic crates and pallets for storage, San Miguel's packaging division saw its numbers surge to record levels—operating income jumped 84 percent to P1.9 billion and revenues swelled 16 percent to P14.3 billion—due to a "re-invigorated sales push of internal customers in the San Miguel group."

In its 2000 annual report, San Miguel said: "Buoyed by the increased requirements of internal customers, San Miguel Packaging Product's domestic glass business exceeded previous year volume and revenue levels by 18 percent and 30 percent, respectively."

San Miguel management denied speculations that San Miguel increased bottle and plastic container production due to a self-induced shortage.

It claimed this was a deliberate move to improve product availability and penetration in trade as well as increase, if not protect, its market share position in the face of a declining beer industry. Management stressed that the incremental cost of the additional containers was fully absorbed by savings from plant efficiencies as product stoppages due to lack of containers were addressed.

The company also said the plastics business posted a 39-percent growth in revenue to P2 billion due primarily to increased crate and pallet volume requirements from the San Miguel beer division. Its market share increased from 70 percent in 1999 to 76 percent in 2000 for glass containers; 77 percent to 82 percent for plastic crates; 72 percent to 80 percent for pallets.

On top of swelling receivables, San Miguel also saw its inventory levels jump by 52 percent to P13.3 billion last year from P8.747 billion in 1999 largely due to a whopping 61-percent increase in inventories of materials, supplies and containers to P10.406 billion.

Despite San Miguel's efforts to stoke turnover, retail sales remained weak for the whole year due to the economic slowdown, the Mindanao conflict and declining farm incomes that San Miguel said was compounded by the 12-percent hike in beer excise taxes, oil and transport cost increases and volatility in the exchange rate.

Although San Miguel's market share climbed to 90 percent last year from 84 percent in 1999, this was made amid a contracting market as beer volume shrunk 3 percent, which management said was better than the industry's decline of 4.2 percent in 2000.

Centech and TMI

The ongoing probe by the Macapagal administration of San Miguel's performance since July 1998 is not only focused on deals that have been disclosed by management to the public and those that have surfaced from the company's board minutes.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, the lead private lawyer of the prosecution team in the widely viewed Senate impeachment trial, said the government was bent on unearthing some under-the-table deals entered into by San Miguel that private interests could have unduly profited from.

The focal point of this probe is the management contracts entered into by San Miguel management with Centech International Inc. and The Management Inc. under Cojuangco's watch.

The government is looking into allegations that these companies are owned by Cojuangco's right-hand man, San Miguel vice chair Ramon Ang, and that they are the main beneficiaries of management's decision to centralize the company's multibillion-peso purchases through the Ortigas headquarters.

In the chair's report to shareholders in the 1999 annual report, Cojuangco said: "The group-wide logistics and purchasing functions were realigned at the corporate level, allowing us to employ the leverage of our size and negotiate better terms from our suppliers."

In its counter-affidavit, San Miguel maintained that Centech was an independent company owned by a core group of engineers across all fields of the engineering science.

Centech's two-year contract with San Miguel started in January 2000 and was not renewed on Dec. 31, 2000. "Centech deployed about 20 to 25 engineers to render services for a minimal fee of P6 million a year. This was not even a fraction of one percent of the

Asahi of Japan offers to buy out RP partners

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

TOKYO-BASED glass, chemicals, ceramics and electronics giant Asahi Glass Co. Ltd. has offered to buy out Republic Glass Holdings Corp. from two joint venture companies — Republic Asahi Glass Corp. and Republic Asahi Realty Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Republic Glass vice president and general manager Florence Wong said the Japanese firm had expressed interest to acquire by itself or through qualified nominees all of the company's shareholdings in the two companies.

Both companies are under a 60-40 percent joint venture agreement between Republic Glass, which is controlled by Marcos energy czar Geronimo Velasco, and Asahi Glass.

Wong said discussions were ongoing between the two parties and that the Re-

public Glass board had authorized its president, Velasco, and his son, Geronimo Jr., to negotiate the terms and conditions of the planned divestment.

Republic Glass Holdings is engaged in the manufacture of flat glass, clear and tinted float, figured glass, automotive glass, mirror products and specialty glass.

The company traces its history in a pioneering venture designed to save valuable foreign exchange through import substitution of flat glass. Established in 1956, the company started its operations with figured glass, followed by polished plate in 1967, by tempered glass in 1974 and by tinted plate glass in 1976. Through the years, it has tapped a lucrative and growing foreign market for its products, including the United States, Singapore and Indonesia.

In 1988, the company entered into a joint venture agreement with Asahi

Glass to put up a float glass plant. It has likewise diversified into the construction business.

The takeover of these Philippine joint ventures is seen to be part of Asahi's plan to firm up control of its global businesses. The Japanese firm has been actively taking over the businesses it had established initially as joint ventures with local companies across the Southeast Asian region.

Last year, it took over majority control of its joint ventures in Thailand, namely Thai-Asahi Glass Public Co. Ltd., Bangkok Float Glass Co. Ltd. and Thai Safety Glass Co. Ltd., by purchasing all the shares held by Srituengfong & Phanichewa group. In addition, it has indirectly acquired from its Thai partners all the shares in Thai-Asahi Electronic Devices Co. Ltd.

Asahi's takeover of the Thai joint ventures was in anticipation of the rebound of the Thai economy after the Asian financial crisis. The Japanese firm plans to use these companies as its key production centers in the Asian region within the framework of its global business strategy.

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Cojuangco . . .

(From page B8)

Management claimed Centech's services as consultant to the San Miguel group, which expired last year, were limited to an independent review and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the plant's energy consumption and contractual arrangements of mall installations, and an assessment of real need and completeness of the technical specifications of capital projects.

San Miguel claimed programs initiated by Centech generated P35 million in power costs savings annually as the company shifted energy tie-ups of some installations from privately franchised units to the National Power Corp. while other rates were renegotiated. Centech's other pending projects in San Miguel, which would be taken over by its corporate technical services, would generate another P41 million in savings.

On top of these savings, management credited Centech for reducing cash flow for capital expenditures from P6.8 billion in 1997 to an average of P2 billion a year from 1998 to 2000.

Like Centech, San Miguel claimed TMI was managed by a group of professionals in different areas of initiatives and expertise. San Miguel said TMI's fee was based on actual reimbursement of direct cost plus 15 percent for overhead. It said this added up to P20 million to P30 million a year.

"This is insignificant compared to the savings generated for San Miguel. It is not an incremental cost since it basically substituted for the various individual consultants previously engaged by the company who are paid about P500,000 per month per consultant," the San Miguel management said.

Another deal involving Cojuangco that has baffled the government is San Miguel's decision to purchase more copra to produce coconut oil. "It is not clear from the minutes whether San Miguel bought copra or equity in Southern Island Oil which is reportedly owned by Cojuangco," the government said in its petition.

During the Feb. 25, 1999 meeting, Cojuangco inhibited himself from voting because he had an interest in Southern Island Oil. Cojuangco informed the board that the two other mills involved in the deal were owned by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, whose trustee was the United Coconut Planters Bank, which he also partially owned.

Management said it decided to buy more copra because it would enable San Miguel to sell more coconut oil and be more efficient. (To be continued)

Stocks . . .

(From page B1)

opments as a "terrible setback" for the country's efforts to woo foreign investors back into the market and warned that if the situation got out of hand the May 14 elections could be in jeopardy.

Vincent Lazatin, vice president of World Wide Investment Management Co. of the Philippines, said any escalation of the current tense situation would again put pressure on stocks on Wednesday.

A "worst-case scenario" would be a clash between pro and anti-Estrada forces on Tuesday when both camps are expected to hold large rallies.

Turnover reached P443.38 million, up slightly from P398.47 million last Friday. Losers swamped gainers 56 to 7, with 37 stocks unchanged. With reports from Reuters, AP

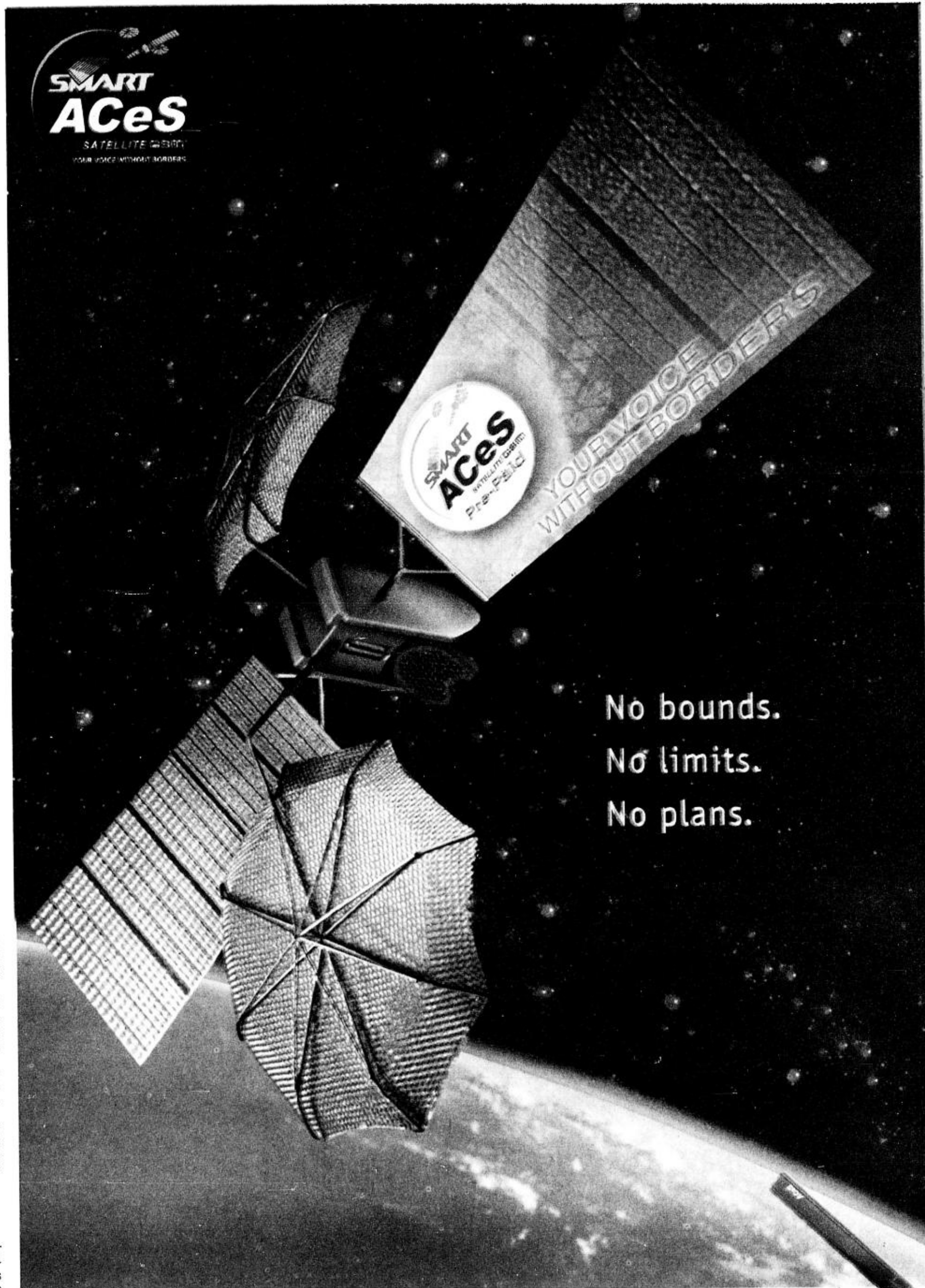
Nestle . . .

(From page B1)

tory into a single manufacturing facility for Nescafe, a move that is expected to generate significant efficiencies. Nestle sources most of its green coffee supply from Mindanao, making its Cagayan de Oro factory an ideal site.

As a result of the consolidation, Nestle also announced that it would stop operations of its Alabang Factory in Muntinlupa City starting May 31 and will concentrate its coffee production in Cagayan de Oro. All employees from Alabang Factory will be offered jobs in other Nestle factories in the Philippines.

"We are undertaking all these projects in order to remain cost competitive, locally and in the region. Exports will offer tremendous opportunities for us. Nestle has been around for more than 100 years. These projects demonstrate that we are here to stay," Santos said.



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Peacefully joined his Creator on April 28, 2001
 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife NENITA; children and children-in-law WILLY and CATHY, GENE and DEBBY, EMMA and PORONG, MENG and PAUL, and AGNES; grandchildren RAISSA, TOBIT, BETTINA, CHARLIE, REGINE, JAMES BENEDICT and ELIZABETH; brothers, sister, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 3, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

"MAMA, you will forever be in our hearts."

ALICIA S. MAGTANONG

of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 27, 2001 at the age of 70.

Her loving husband FELIMON; children RUTH and JOHNNY; ALFE and FERNANDO; and JED; grandchildren ABIGAIL and JOHN PAUL, and CENTINNE FERNANDO II wish to inform relatives and friends that her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City (April 27-28, 2001), 259 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan (April 28 - May 5, 2001).

Interment will be on Saturday, May 5, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at Puerto Princesa Memorial Park, San Jose, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8)

ANGELITA WENCESLAO DIMAANO

Now peacefully rests in the Goodness and Grace of our Lord
 on April 29, 2001 at the age of 68.

Her bereaved sons and daughters-in-law Ino, Joey & Ching, Sito & Marjorie, Paul and Anle; grandchildren Jed & Herschel; brother Manuel and his family, nieces and nephews, invite other relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

We, the family of the late

ILUMINADA "LUMING"
WENCESLAO-SUMPAICO, MD.

remember, celebrate and believe in Christ's love
 as manifested in our *Mama's* life.

Thank you for your prayers, offerings, and
 presence that made her passage to eternal life
 a comfort and a Grace.

Papa Aquin

Reddie and Sandy, Carlo, Lissa, Ninin

Jojo and Ditsy, Tippy and Obet, Jonjee SJ, Jaypee, Jong

Lennie, SJ

Mimi and Bits, Tuton, Ayen, Cissy, Lara

Didit

ERNESTO F. SANVICTORES

Vice Chairman & President,
 Sea Commercial Company, Inc.

Vice President & Director,
 Seacom Industrial Corporation,

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 29, 2001
 at the age of 71.

His loving wife Lourdes (†); and children Mercy and Babes, Ernesto Jr. and Virgie, Joselito and Betsy, Marissa and Gene, Daniel; grandchildren, brothers and sisters and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

After a requiem Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City on Thursday, May 3, 2001, cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium.

Interment will follow at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Bulletin Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

"You are my God, and I give you thanks.
 You are my God, and I give you praise.
 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
 His steadfast love endures forever."

(Psalm 118:28-29)

SISTER MA. VIOLETA (REMEDIOS)
SEBASTIAN MARCOS, AMP

Co-Foundress/Superior General

Congregation of the Augustinian Missionaries of the Philippines
 AMP Mission Center, 1029 P. Noval Street, Sampaloc, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 30, 2001 at the age of 63.

Her remains lie in state at the San Agustin Center of Studies, Fisheries Street, Visayas Avenue, Sanville, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 3, 2001 at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery, Rizal Avenue Extension, Kalookan City after the 9:30 AM Mass.

The Congregation, her co-workers, relatives, friends and loved ones are joined in a humble prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

We design
 OBITUARIES
 for free.

Judge CEFERINO S. GADDI

Retired, Court of First Instance and Regional Trial Court, Manila

September 11, 1918 - April 29, 2001

His beloved wife Victoria; children Antoinette and Olimpio Angeles, Blanca and Eduardo Calanog, Ceferino, Jr. and Rose, Agapito and Rebecca, Jesus and Marjorie, and Marivic; grandchildren Tony and Shira, Maureen, John, Barbara and Jason, Ted, Monmon, Jojo, Jing and Gigi; brothers Rogelio and Osias; other relatives and friends deeply mourn his passing and pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the Heroes Hill Community Chapel, 81 General Segundo Street, Quezon City, April 30 to May 2, 2001. There will be daily Masses at 7:00 p.m. at the chapel. His body will be transferred to the family residence in Sta. Ana, Pampanga on Thursday, May 3.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 5, 2001 at St. Anne's Memorial Park, following the 8:00 AM Mass at the Sta. Ana Cathedral.

I am
 the way,
 the truth
 and
 the life.
 No one
 comes
 to the
 Father
 except
 through
 Me.

John 14:6

MS. VALENTINA B. OSORIO

July 25, 1919 - April 27, 2001

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 27, 2001
 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved daughter VIRGINIA B. OSORIO; sister Hilaria Tazan; nieces, nephews and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel St. Luke, St. Mark Chapels, G. Tuazon Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, May 2, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. after the 12:30 p.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

MARIA TRINIDAD HONORIO

of Marilao, Bulacan

Joined her husband Cirilo, Sr. in the Grace of our Lord
 on April 29, 2001 at age of 96.

Her bereaved children Cirilo, Jr. (†) and Dra. Victoria Isidro, Lucilo and Norma San Juan, Rafael and Dra. Emma Zaballero, Rosaura and Linda Padilla, Manuel (†) and Dra. Vilma Padernal, Angelita and Ernesto Duran; grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives, thank God for having blessed us with someone like her.

Her remains lie in state at Bokal Eny Duran residence at Poblacion 2, Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be announced later.

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Microtel to develop hotel in Canlubang

THE UNITED STATES-BASED Microtel network will soon add a sixth property to its barely 16-month-old chain of hotels in the country.

Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas) Inc. (MIS-P), the Philippine master franchise holder of the world's fastest-growing chain of international-class economy hotels, has signed a franchise agreement with the Yulo Group's Altoclaro Resources Management Corp. to build and develop a 60-room hotel within the Canlubang Sugar Estate in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Located near the Carmelray Industrial Park, Microtel Canlubang is scheduled to be ready for opening in the first quarter of next year, almost simultaneously with Microtel Sta. Rosa on Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Highway.

Meanwhile, Microtel has recently opened its hotels in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro and in the Aquino Center in Luisita, Tarlac. By midyear, it will open two more hotels—one at Eagle



SIGNING the franchise agreement are Jose A. Yulo Jr. chair of Altoclaro Resources, and Jose Mari del Rosario, president and CEO of MIS-P and Paramount Property Management Co.

Ridge in General Trias, Cavite and the other at the First Philippine Industrial Park in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

"Microtel is known worldwide for its international-class hotels with real value for money," said Jose Mari del Rosario, president and chief

executive officer of MIS-P and Paramount Property Management Co., which manages all Microtel hotels in the country.

"Microtel hotels are safe and secure; the rooms, clean and comfortable," added Del Rosario. "Moreover, we provide for such

modern needs as IDD-capable telephones, a compatible port for fax and modem, and cable TV featuring international channels. And yet, the rates are most competitive, comparable to those of provincial, independent hotels."

The global Microtel chain has 210 hotels operating in the United States and more than 400 being developed on various continents. It provides ample space for short-term or extended-stay business travelers to work comfortably, and a professional setting for small meetings.

Every room has built-in desk and chair. Basic room amenities include a key-card lock system, a bed that meets chiropractic standards, a fire sprinkler and complete toilet and bath.

Suite amenities include a wet bar, a refrigerator, a coffeemaker and a microwave oven. For family and leisure travelers, the suite's living room has a sofa sleeper so that it can serve as a second bedroom.



SUBURBAN MASTER PLAN

Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. is implementing a suburban master plan for its high-end residential development in a 220-hectare Summit Point Golf and Residential Estate situated in Lipa City, Batangas. This development is undertaken with Summit Point Realty and Development Corp. headed by real estate developer Conrad C. Leviste.

18 housing sites for informal settlers listed for P88-M loans

EIGHTEEN housing sites for informal housing settlers have received accreditation for financing and acquisition by their homeowners' associations under the government's community mortgage program (CMP) to assure the security of land tenure and homeownership of 2,253 urban poor beneficiaries.

Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and concurrent chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the projects have received a total of P88.26 million in loan funding commitment line from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., the HUDCC-attached agency implementing the CMP.

Defensor, who is also the ex-officio chair of the NHMFC board of directors, said the additional CMP projects were given accreditation in line with the scaled-up implementation of the CMP and to boost the informal housing agenda of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lawyer Anglico T. Salud, NHMFC president, said the homeowners' associations of informal settlers

given accreditation were the Samahan ng mga Maralita sa Lungsod ng Parañaque Homeowners Association (HOA) Inc., Parañaque, for P2.7 million; Sitio Mingoy HOA, Cebu City, P2.2 million; Presidential Pigeon HOA, Quezon City, P1.53 million; Taling Ilog Purok 7A HOA, Balagtas, Bulacan, P1.73 million;

Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Joan of Arc, Quezon City, P427,000; Taling Ilog HOA, Quezon City, P9.9 million; Napico HOA, Phase 5, Pasig City, P17.85 million; Napico HOA, Phase 8, Pasig City, P12.94 million; Aguardiente Ideal Land HOA, Pasig City, P736,000; Magkakasama HOA, Phase 15, Quezon City, P2 million; Nagkakaisang Magkakapitbahay sa Parang HOA, Marikina, P2.76 million;

Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Apatong HOA, Marikina, P4.7 million; Jeep ni Erap Village, Cluster 4, P9 million; Jeep ni Erap Village, Cluster 6, P9.18 million, all in Gubat, Sorsogon; and three project sites in Bacolod City, namely Kasadyahan HOA, P600,000; Faith HOA, P258,900; and Eleven United HOA, P211,200.

Shopping complex to open in June

A NEW landmark in the historic Vigan City, Ilocos Sur is the Plaza Maestro Shopping Complex, located beside the Vigan Cathedral and adjacent to the City Hall.

The complex covering 4,200 square meters, is classic in design—inspired by Spanish-Filipino architecture—has 3-level story, fully air-conditioned and will be considered the most modern shopping building in Vigan.

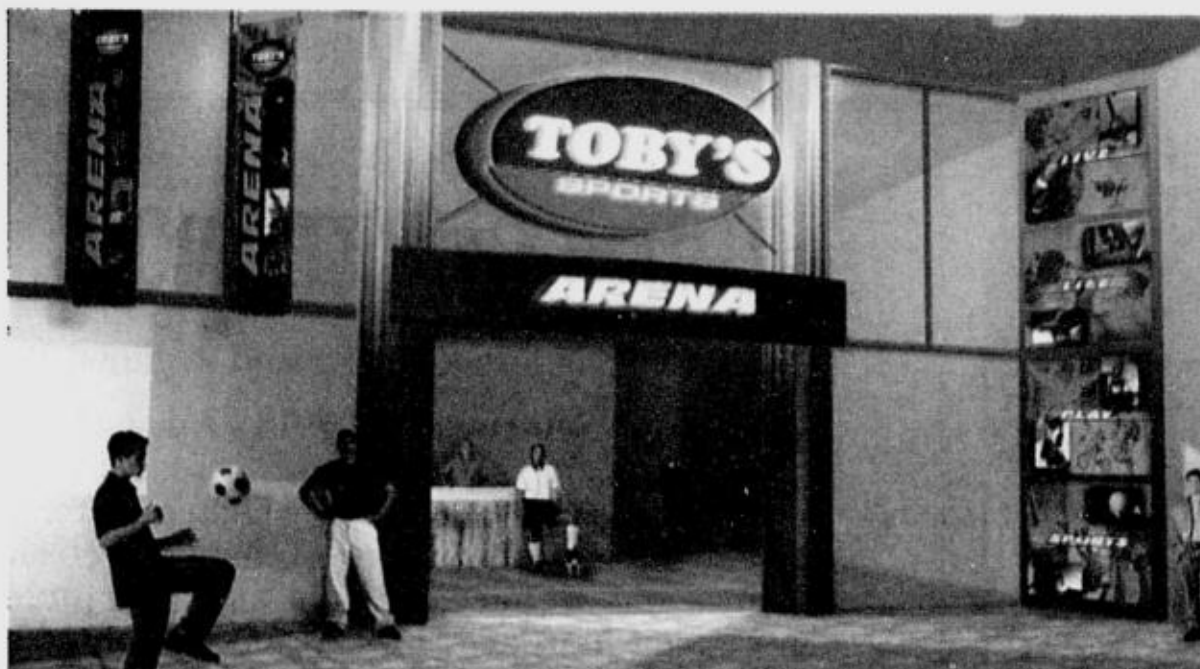
Now with the forthcoming inauguration in June, early contracted tenants include Land Bank, Bench, Penshoppe, Mendrey Shoes, XI Fashion, Broadway Gems, Encarnacion Beauty Salon, Chowking, a photo shop, Internet café, toys and gifts shop.

Another special gift shop "Regalo de Vigan" carries Vigan products under one roof that will be housed in an antique "bahay na bato" replica.

The Jollibee outlet, which is part of the complex, was recently inaugurated and blessed by Archbishop Edmundo Abaya of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia. It is considered as the largest in the northern part of the Ilocos region, with 250 seating capacity.

The complex, which is owned and operated by BCS Holdings and Development Corp., promises comfort and cleanliness and security-tight complex that local residents and tourists would enjoy every minute while shopping or just food tripping in some restaurants.

The complex was built as a tribute to the late Jose "Seling" Singson Sr. who was fondly called "Maestro" by his peers during his time.



LARGEST SPORTING GOODS OUTLET OPENS

Toby's Sports Arena, the largest sporting goods outlet in the country and located at the third level of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati, opens its doors on Friday with a grand launching celebration. The 800-square-meter store designed by DQA Industrial Design, employs a "sports arena" concept, the very first in the Philippines. The multilevel arena gives customers the simulated experience of being inside a major sports venue. The store is equipped with interactive games such as the basketball "Shoot-out" court and the billiards "Showdown." It features Internet/game stations, a 9-bank video wall and a wide array of sports products that will surely catch the fancy of sports buffs.

VIABLE RESIDENTIAL SITE

Sta. Lucia Realty helps raise Pampanga stakes

STA. Lucia Realty and Development Inc.'s Beverly Place is expected to help raise Pampanga's stakes as a viable residential site even as the premiere developer shares in the vision of the region's economic planners to create a "megapolopolis" out of 10 Pampanga and Tarlac towns the growth of which will be highly benefited by the so-called port nodes of Clark and Subic Bay Freeport Zones.

Widely known for pioneering in building residential enclaves in yet to be developed areas that are poised to become the next boom town, Sta. Lucia again envisions great potential for Pampanga.

Said Sta. Lucia president Exequiel Robles: "The towns of Pampanga, as well as the adjoining towns, is a developing metropolis. There is a growing business community that the town has attracted of late and in our own way, we want to support that growth with infrastructure that will make locators more comfortable and confident about their decision to expand in Central Luzon."

To complement the megalopolis concept, Sta. Lucia's Beverly Place Residential Estates will be a self-contained community featuring the best of both worlds: urban living in a genteel, suburban setting. While

walkways and pockets of green suggests idyllic walks residents can enjoy, the project will also provide for urban conveniences such as restaurants, retail shops, computer and Internet cafés, banks, stores and a gasoline station. The standard leisure clubhouse complex, utilities, among others, will also be in place. An 18-hole golf course with a clubhouse, golfer's lounge, locker rooms, a pro shop and a fine-dining restaurant and caddies quarters round up the leisure atmosphere.

The well-planned community will also have as its focal point its very own central plaza with a shopping

mall, supermarket as well as a church and a school. Ongoing developments in the area also complete Beverly Place "surround-bound" convenience. Beverly Place is strategically located across the newly opened SM Mall Pampanga where residents get to enjoy visiting the mall as they would in Manila. Robinsons is also set to develop its own mall structure nearby, giving residents all the cosmopolitan choices hardly available in far-flung residential areas that are not situated within or around a central town or financial district.

Added Robles: "Pampanga is rich with potential. It's close enough to

Manila to be a catch-all for businesses that have no choice but to spread into economic arteries in Central Luzon. Good planning and building the right infrastructures will encourage more growth in the area and it is our view that enhancing Pampanga's attractions with a good housing project can only help that growth along. People still need to live well and easy after a hard day's work, to regain strength for the next day's workload. That's our ultimate goal as a builder and we know that if we are able to achieve that, it would somehow redound to the overall economic good."

CONSTRUCSCOPE

Best booth design at Worldbex 2001

A SERIES of graceful curves, half circles and strong vibrant colors swirling around its prominent product displays earned for American Standard the award for best booth design at the recently concluded Worldbex 2001. The standout booth exhibited American Standard's latest models of innovative bathroom products. Celebrating the acceptance of the award were American Standard president Graham Davies, director for sales Amel Arnas, director for marketing Lourdes Topacio, director for finance Benito Pascual, director for legal affairs and administration Robert Dolfer and director for manufacturing Armando Canlas and American Standard Korea director for export Yoon Min Song.

New head office and plant

ROBERTO V. Garcia, president of Ramcar Group of Companies, led the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Ramcar Tire's new head office on Henry Javier Street corner Danny Floro Street, Barangay Oranbo, Pasig City. Also present during the ceremonies were RTC EVP and general manager Elpidio Carlota and marketing manager Ronnie Joyosa and Barangay Councilor Richard Pua. The new RTC facility is a complete tire retreading and servicing location, which also serves as a national distribution hub for its seven retreading plants nationwide. Established in 1992, the company now has the biggest system in the country and is the leading Philippine distributor of inner tubes and tire flaps.

PMRB seminar director

REALTOR-APPRAISER Edwin Lisondra has been tapped as seminar director for the Pasay-Makati Realtors Board Inc.'s 51st comprehensive real estate seminar and review on May 4, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 21 at the AIM Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. The PMRB, a pioneer in real estate education, has maintained its high standard of teaching and focuses on quality education. It continuously draws a wide spectrum of participants, even outside Metro Manila. Majority of those who attended the seminar passed the examination and now have profitable careers in real estate. Not only will participants be taught to easily pass the exam but also they will be rigidly trained how to become professional realtors. All lecture materials will be provided. For more information, please call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 and 893-0585 or e-mail at pmb@broline.com. Registration is ongoing at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H. V. dela Costa St., Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Blue Circle launches cement products

BLUE Circle Philippines, the cement manufacturing company that offers the widest product range in the country, is introducing to the local market Walcrete Masonry Cement and Phoenix Fly Ash Cement—two new cement product lines that will certainly make a difference in the building and construction industry.

Walcrete, the first nationally distributed masonry cement in the country, is a specially formulated cement that is designed for use in plastering, rendering, laying, bedding and pointing of blocks and bricks.

Developed using Blue Circle's 100 years of technical experience in cement manufacturing, Walcrete is so easy to use in plastering walls. Unlike ordinary cement that will take a mason quite some time to smoothen a wall, Walcrete readily forms into a really smooth surface. Thus, the quality of finish that Walcrete gives is simply remarkable.

Another notable advantage in using

Walcrete cement is its cost-effectiveness. One bag of Walcrete can cover an area wider than that which a bag of ordinary cement can cover. Since it has a higher workability and a longer board life than traditional cement products, Walcrete ensures lower wastage, thus bringing down construction costs. In addition, there is no need to add hydrated lime or Portland cement to Walcrete cement because it is ready to use. For a perfect finish, it is simply mixed with clean fine sand and water.

Moreover, Walcrete Masonry Cement makes painting easier and less expensive for it comes in a lighter color, which is in sharp contrast to the dark color of Portland cement. It will not take long before Walcrete cement is sold here in more color varieties.

For this particular product, Blue Circle, the market leader in masonry cements in the United States and the United Kingdom, utilizes a specially

formulated chemical which improves its performance in terms of workability, ease of application and quality of finish. It is no wonder then that Walcrete surpasses all the requirements of PNS75: 1986, the Product Standard Agency's standard for masonry cement.

Blue Circle's Phoenix cement is the first commercially distributed fly ash cement in the country. Fly ashes are produced by coal combustion, generally in an electrical generating station. Phoenix Fly Ash Cement, which is produced in partnership with Pozzolanic Phils. Inc., is so called because it is likened to the legendary bird that arose from the fire.

This kind of cement, which is widely used by construction companies around the world, is economical as it is environment-friendly. Since ashes from coal are being used as a component for this cement, manufacturers like Blue Circle are putting into good use what would

have otherwise been regarded as waste matter.

Blue Circle's Phoenix Fly Ash Cement is preblended with Portland cement. Blue Circle's special manufacturing facility, which is to be completed this year, will revolutionize the manufacturing of Phoenix cement.

Later this year, Blue Circle Philippines plans to introduce four more innovative and unique products that will further expand the company's "Professional Builder's Choice" range of cement.

The firm brings together four of the country's top cement producers in an alliance of strength: Republic Cement Corp., Fortune Cement Corp., Mindanao Portland Cement Corp. and Iligan Cement Corp. Blue Circle's existing product range varies from Portland Cement Type 1, 2 and 5; Pozzolan Cement, White Cement, Masonry Cement and Designer Cement.

Bonifacio Stopover reaches first milestone

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp.'s top officials were joined by their partners in Bonifacio Stopover to witness the groundbreaking ceremony. Its latest project will be a full-service Shell gas station with a standalone Jollibee outlet and a two-story retail complex housing Starbucks, Zen Day Spa, Hen Lin, Japs, Kameraworld and Ralph's Liquor Store. Bonifacio

Stopover is now rising on a 4,000-square-meter lot in the western portion of the city within the Peza-accredited e-Square IT park.

The completion and operation of Bonifacio Stopover is targeted for June of this year. The timing is considered ideal with the ongoing progress of the office and residential projects. Locators are already beginning to populate the city.

Traffic flow is also expected to increase as the connector road from the Kalayaan Flyover to C-5 will soon be completed.

Said FBDC president and CEO Ricardo S. Pascua: "We at (the) FBDC have made every effort to afford our locators all the conveniences of a fully functional city even at this early stage. Now with residents actually living in the completed luxury condominium

units and office workers soon to inhabit the city, this effort is being exerted even more. During his brief speech at the inaugural ceremony, he added "Little by little and with small but certain steps we are coming closer to making the vision of Bonifacio Global City a thriving, tangible reality." He also thanked the co-developers of the project for "sharing the vision of the Global City."

Buenaventura cites Creba role in economic growth

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura stressed the important role of the private sector, "particularly represented by groups such as the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) with its large and influential membership," in providing sustaining momentum for economic growth.

During Creba's 4th monthly business meeting at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City Thursday noon, Buenaventura said, "I am pleased to note that Creba continues to be at the forefront in providing impetus for housing."

Earlier, Creba national president Charlie V. Gorayeb had said that Creba "has always been a partner of government in promoting its pro-poor programs, specifically in providing a roof for every Filipino family."

Buenaventura expressed the hope that Creba "will continue to work with the government in pushing forward our common agenda for a sustainable economic future."

The BSP head said, "Our collective efforts toward sustainable growth require the crucial participation of the private sector. This includes the real estate sector's role in promoting the impetus for key sectors such as housing."

The real estate sector is vital to the national economy as a prime mover of the housing sector, he said.



BUENAVENTURA

Housing has long been the government's priority program both as a major component of social policy and an instrument for economic growth.

Housing, he stressed, promotes economic pump-priming because of its impact on ancillary industries, which include the basic building materials sector and the construction sector.

Citing BSP's efforts in providing a supportive economic environment for vigorous productive activity,

Buenaventura reported that:

- BSP has kept inflation in check, holding it steady at 6.7 percent in March and averaging at 6.7 percent in the first quarter. Thus, the inflation target of 6 to 7 percent for 2001 is quite reachable.

- Over the last few months, BSP has brought down interest rates. Beginning December, key BSP policy rates were reduced by a cumulative 550 basis points, leading to a lowering of market interest rates. The 91-day treasury bill rate has fallen from a high of 16.72 percent in November to 9.855 percent at the latest auction on April 23.

- Banks' lending rates have also fallen to 13.4 to 15 percent for April 2-6, 2001 compared to 18.3 to 20.1 percent in the first week of December.

- BSP's policy actions have continued to pay off in terms of a healthier economic picture. Thus, there are indications of stronger private demand in terms of rising power sales and faster growth in bank lending.

For instance, Meralco power sales rose by 9.4 percent year-on-year in February, up from the 6.3 percent increase in the previous month. The total loan portfolio of commercial banks has continued to grow steadily with a year-on-year increase of 7.8 percent in January.

Quarterly GDP growth is expected to accelerate from the second quarter

to produce an average annual GDP growth of 3.8 to 4.3 percent for 2001.

Buenaventura said the combination of subdued inflation, easing credit conditions and broad stability in the foreign exchange market should pave the way for a continued decline in interest rates for the rest of the year.

Lower domestic interest rates, along with improved financing conditions, he said, should boost not only the real estate and construction activity but also the overall economy.

The package of BSP initiatives also comprises specific issuances aimed at supporting the housing sector. These include circulars establishing a BSP rediscounting window for the socialized and low-cost housing loan papers of qualified commercial, thrift and rural banks, exempting loans to low and middle-cost housing developers under the national shelter program from the 20 percent aggregate limit on real estate loans of banks and from the reduction in the loan values of real estate collateral from 70 to 60 percent of appraised value.

These issuances, Buenaventura stressed, are part of the wider government initiatives to ensure the viability of the country's housing program by lowering the cost of the housing loans and facilitating better access to financing.

JG SUMMIT CENTER

Office spaces now ready for leasing

EFFECTIVE design and excellent location are attributed to Robinsons Land Corp.'s latest office condominium project, the JG Summit Center.

Located at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, the building is an ideal location for both local and multinational companies.

The 37-story project has a typical leasable floor plate of about 1,000 square meters, available on a floor basis or in optimal cuts ranging from 120 to 250 sq. m. The office accommodations are situated on levels 8 to 37, while the parking areas are on basement levels 1 to 4 and upper levels 3 to 6.

JG Summit Center will boast of these proposed future amenities: a well-equipped business center, a comprehensive cafeteria or fine-dining restaurant, a gym and a helipad at the roof deck.

For more information, please call up the High-rise Building Division Lease Department, at 638-5663 or 633-7641 to 90 local 218.



THE JG Summit Center is at the heart of the Makati Central Business District.

Pioneering landmark rises in the south

INSULAR Life is leading the way in shaping the skyline of Alabang, Muntinlupa. The IL Corporate Centre, the company's new headquarters, is currently the major high-rise landmark in Filinvest Corporate City. This imposing structure is composed of twin towers, 33 and 29 stories high. The towers are triangular in shape, with a concave podium between them that houses a common lobby and a state-of-the-art 524-seat auditorium. Only the finest materials were sourced from all corners of the globe to make sure that the IL Corporate Centre embodies the esthetic as well as structural demands of a true landmark.

The ultra-modern building provides its occupants with facilities that will generate utmost productivity amid a wholesome and secure environment. The building features include:

- A full glass curtain walling for energy conservation
- A computerized building management system
- Advanced office security system
- High-efficiency lighting
- Raised-floor wire management and full standby power
- Two sets of escalators
- A computerized lift system consisting of 17 sets of high-speed elevators
- Passenger elevator for the

handicapped

Other building amenities include:

- An executive club and restaurant
- Coffee shop
- 600-slot car park
- Heli stop

Insular Life's banking subsidiary Insular Savings Bank will also be located on the ground floor.

The finest materials, from the floors to the ceilings, walls and fixtures were meticulously chosen not only for their strength and quality but for their aesthetic impact as well.

The building's main entrance uses innovative double sliding doors, using Japanese technology. It is designed to keep the warm air outside from getting in and maintains the cool temperature within the building.

At the ground floor lobby, granite stones from Brazil were used for the floors and walls, giving it a classic elegance and feel. Seraphic glass imported from Singapore was used for the lobby ceiling, allowing for the optimized effect of natural daylight. Half of the ground floor lobby is devoted to water features, consisting of a flowing shallow pond and a fountain.

At one end of the elevator lobby, the entire wall is finished in onyx, a semi-precious stone sourced from Turkey. Onyx

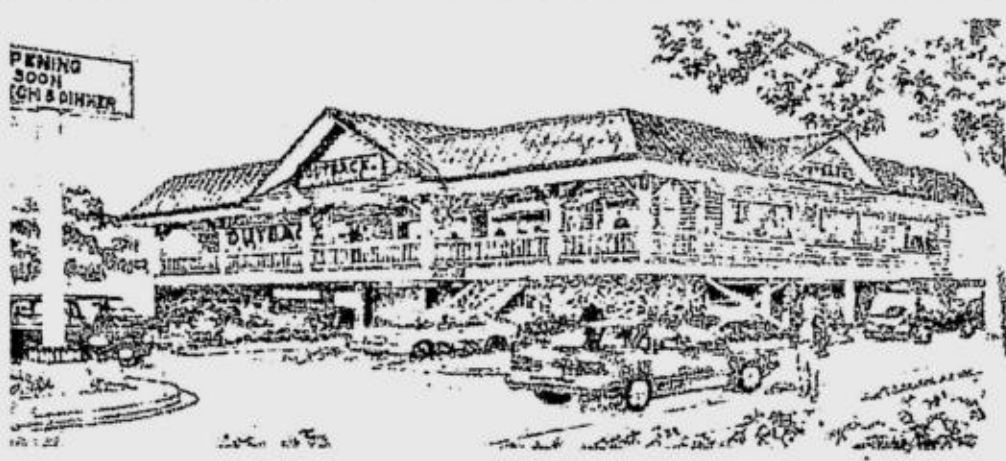
possesses a special quality which, when backlit, changes color creating some sort of magical effect. In the words of its interior designer, people coming in to work in the morning could imagine they are seeing a sunrise, while in the afternoon, the same wall gives an illusion of a sunset.

Two escalators bring visitors to the second floor where the auditorium is located. The escalators allow for the best vantage view of the artworks and sculptures located at strategic points at the ground floor lobby.

All the rooms and offices have wall-to-wall carpeting, using materials sourced from the United States. For maximum productivity, the workstations are ergonomically designed to maximize working space as well as to give ample room for storage. Painted gypsum boards were used for the office ceilings.

The IL Corporate Centre is a feast for the eye and an experience for the senses. Structural design, interior design and art works from Filipino masters all come together in a synergistic blend that gives the building its own unique character at once sleek and contemporary yet classic and traditional, warm and inviting.

The building's concept architect is Mohri & Associates of Japan, while its interior designer is the Hong Kong-based INARC Design Asia.



OUTBACK GOES TO ALABANG

Outback Restaurant is bringing its good food and service to Alabang with the opening of its latest branch at Alabang Town Center on Sunday. The free-standing structure, which can seat 190 guests, carries the relaxing, casual dining ambience that diners have come to enjoy with its Aussie-inspired memorabilia and aboriginal art festooned on walls, comfortable wooden chairs and cozy lighting.

Defensor to keynote forum on housing parts

SECRETARY Michael Defensor of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council will keynote the seminar-workshop on housing parts standardization project on Thursday at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

Defensor accepted the invitation to open the seminar when the officers of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid a courtesy call. The PCCI officers were led by Raul Boncan, vice president for housing infrastructure, transportation and other services; Manuel Colayco, chair of the housing committee; and Dean Geronimo Manahan.

In the meeting, the PCCI leaders presented to Defensor an upcoming project on housing parts standardization. They also discussed the benefits that

can be derived from the project.

The housing parts standardization project is a program that the PCCI considers crucial since it is a mechanism that could help the housing and construction industry address its cost and wastage problem.

Standardization was introduced in the country in 1983 but has yet to be fully implemented. A study conducted by the Philippine Domestic Construction Board in 1990 showed that 30 percent of the materials and labor costs in housing construction are wasted.

The PCCI, through its committee on housing, is advocating full implementation of this program with the commitment and participation of different sectors and stakeholders.

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BUSINESS

COAL SUPPLY

Napocor eyes long-term deals

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

NATIONAL Power Corp. is veering away from the spot market to long-term supply contracts to avoid fuel shortage in its coal-fired generators.

"We are going to bid out long-term contracts at the last quarter of the year to ensure the stability of our coal supply," Napocor president Jesus N. Alcorido said.

Alcorido said the contracts would last between three and five years compared to the per-shipment consignment for the coal-fed power plants.

He said the decision was made to avoid a repeat of the recent near-short-

age of Napocor's three biggest coal generators as authorities deliberated on the contracts, delaying the delivery of coal.

The change of administration last January delayed the approval of 11 contracts that involved at least 3,600 metric tons of coal.

The contracts, accounting for Napocor's coal requirements for 2001, were bid out through competitive tenders late last year.

Alcorido added that the new coal supply contracts would be auctioned off through an electronic bidding process.

He said they aimed to make electronic Napocor's entire procurement system.

Napocor officials averted the pos-

sible fuel shortage by exercising contract options and by convincing some suppliers to deliver even without an approved contract.

The state-owned power firm reversed an earlier decision not to enter into long-term contracts in anticipation of the passage of the power industry reform bill.

The power bill would privatize Napocor's power generating assets, including the contracts with independent power producers.

Alcorido also said the new long-term contracts would have a clause that would allow Napocor to preterminate them without penalty in case the power

bill was passed within the term of the contracts.

"The buyers of the (power) generating assets and contracts may have their own plans about coal procurement. We need to have a clause on early termination," he said.

The Napocor president said that by next year, the state firm would be getting 60 to 70 percent of its coal supply through long-term contracts while the rest would come from the spot market.

Napocor is providing coal to six power plants—the 1,200-megawatt Sual, 700-mw Masinloc, 600-mw Calaca, 105-mw Naga and 55-mw Toledo generators.

No gov't takeover of SMC-Valencia

THERE is no intention on the part of the government to take over San Miguel Corp. because it continues to be a private company that has been performing very well, according to one of the nominees of the Arroyo Administration to the company's board of directors during its shareholders' meeting on May 3.

Former Social Security System chair Renato Valencia said yesterday on the program "Stockmarket Live" that San Miguel has been doing very well during the past many years, and has been hailed in the international business community as a most admired company.

"Historically, San Miguel has always been a private company," Valencia said. "It will continue to be a private firm."

Valencia said the position of the government in being represented in the board of directors of San Miguel is also to help resolve this ownership issue.

Lawyer Ruben Carranza, a com-

missioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), supported the position of Valencia, saying "San Miguel is recognized as the pride of Philippine business and industry."

"I don't think the government wants to change that (by taking over the company)," he explained. The views of Valencia and Carranza came a few days before the May 3 annual stockholders' meeting of San Miguel where the legal question on the composition of the 15-member board of directors is expected to be resolved.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Corp. reported a recurring net income of P7.5 billion for 2000, an increase of 25 percent over the previous year's P6.01 billion. Operating income amounted to P7.9 billion, 19 percent higher than the year-ago level of P6.7 billion. San Miguel's consolidated net sales reached P88.7 million, up 17 percent from P75.6 billion the year before.

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YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Gov't moving to end NSC row

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is making a last-ditch effort to save National Steel Corp. by compelling both the Malaysian-backed management and creditor-banks to agree on a temporary reopening of the Iligan City plant while they continue the hunt for a long-term investor.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas III said he has convinced both parties to go back to the negotiating table to restart discussions on ways to revive NSC although it remains to be seen whether both would agree to let the government act as arbiter.

"We want the Malaysians to decide as shareholders, the banks as creditors and the government will act in the interest of the community and the economy in general," Roxas said.

The government has decided to mediate in the stalemate as NSC's assets have been withering away due to inactivity since November 1999 while the Malaysians and creditor-banks continue to bicker on which entity should operate NSC on a temporary basis. The receivership committee has not acted on the stalemate because of threats of legal action from both sides.

Roxas said the government reckoned that it was about time to make a decisive action on NSC's assets before they deteriorate and turn to scrap. "The government will only come in if there is a deadlock on negotiations. The government has a coercive power in this situation because the parties have to get government support for anti-dumping protection or tariff shield," Roxas said.

He said the government felt it was the best time to finally take the bull by the horns because both parties have reached their "levels of exasperation."

"Both sides desire an interim operation to keep the plant assets, equipment, and personnel alive."

The government has hinted that it would back a proposal by Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co. to lease, operate and maintain the shuttered steel plant of NSC until creditor-banks have found a long-term investor for the bankrupt firm.

The government said that Allengoal's proposal was the most feasible among the offers put on the table by interested buyers and the most responsive to NSC's immediate needs of arresting the deterioration of the plant facilities that have been idled since November 1999.

Allengoal's proposal is being backed by the Malaysian group as it has already obtained approval for its lease-to-operate plan from the NSC management-led Ibrahim Bida of Malaysian but this was struck down by its creditor-banks and the Securities and Exchange Commission which have put the company under receivership.

PLDT sets flat NDD rate

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has dropped its non-operator-assisted long distance fee to a flat rate of P3 per minute to take advantage of its dominant position in the industry and increase its national long distance toll revenues.

The new rate will apply to national direct distance dial calls between any two PLDT phones anywhere in the country and will take effect today. Before this new rate, NDD calls ranged from P4.40 to P6.60 a minute, depending on where the call was placed.

NDD calls made to subscribers of other fixed-line operators, meanwhile, will be charged P3.50 to P5 a minute.

PLDT said in a statement that with an average 30-percent rate reduction, more subscribers would be able to make more calls without worrying about their bills.

"PLDT's new NDD rates are part of a series of initiatives that the company is implementing to make its products and services more competitive while, at the same time, providing more value to its customers," Joaquin San Agustin, PLDT vice president for national retail marketing, said.

"Simplifying its rate structure allows the company to increase efficiencies and improve customer patronage, which in the long-term means maximization of company resources and opportunities."

The new rates are available using any of the following PLDT products: PLDT landline, Teletipid (PLDT's prepaid landline), Touch Card, Fonkard Plus and PLDT's network of business offices, call malls and public calling offices nationwide.

Subscribers can avail of the NDD service for their PLDT phones by simply calling 171 or visiting any PLDT business office for free activation.

PLDT's NDD service can be activated within three days upon receipt and approval of request.

PLDT is the principal supplier of domestic and international telecommunications services in the Philippines, with more than six million customers. It is also the country's leading communications provider for high-end broadband data services.

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Steps toward a stronger, more flexible you



VANESSA Garcia shows her knockout figure.

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MAKEUP: DIEGO DE LA PALMA
LIESL'S CLOTHES BY SPEEDO, RUSTAN'S
VANESSA'S CLOTHES BY NIKE

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

ARE you tired of pumping iron in the gym? Are you bored with the mindless repetition of movements and not getting any results?

Ex-dancer Sofia Zobel-Elizalde, founder of Steps Studio, has tapped jazz dancer Liesl Laforteza and certified power-boxing teacher Vanessa Garcia to help people put their body to use in ways that an aerobics or gym workout does not. Jazz and power boxing require flexibility, strength, coordination, fortitude and grace. In learning these

Jazz and power boxing will make your body do what it has never done before, and you'll aspire to use it with a fullness you never thought possible

activities, you'll make your body do what it has never done before, and you'll aspire to use it with a fullness you never thought possible.

All that jazz

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning at Steps, young mothers escape from their household responsibilities and rediscover their sensuality in jazz.

Liesl is 35 but doesn't look it. Dancing and keeping a bright and chirpy attitude keep her youthful and fit even after having three kids.

The jazz teacher says she tends to get pregnant when she's in her lowest weight — 118-112 pounds at 5'6". During full

term pregnancy, she weighs as much as 155 pounds.

Pregnancy can put a downer on her self-esteem. It can be appalling to see her once slender body bloat and she can't fit into her fashionable exercise clothes.

After childbirth, she gets into her sexy midriff tops and jazz pants just to see how much weight she's got to trim down. In six months, she's able to wear her tight clothes again just by dancing the extra pounds away.

"I'm not a gym person. I don't diet. I love to eat," she says. Since Liesl is naturally flexible, she can easily kick her legs

STEPS/ p.C3

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Free clinic for patients with arthritis

THE OSPITAL ng Maynila and Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center Rayuma Clinics will celebrate their first and third anniversary, respectively, on May 22 and 25. Highlights of the annual celebration for both hospitals include free clinic for patients with arthritis. The free clinic includes free consultation, medicines and bone mass screening. Call 711-9491.

SEMINAR ON HEPATITIS. Insam Corp., the Philippines' exclusive distributor of Cheong Kwan Jang Korean Red Ginseng, continues its series of free hepatitis B seminars at the Corregidor Room, Century Park Sheraton Hotel, on May 5.

WEEKLY DOSAGE

Insam Corp. medical director Dr. Maximo Tribal, also the company's official spokesperson, will conduct the seminar which is expected to enlighten people regarding the killer disease. Visit the Insam office at 3/F Cuevas Tower Condominium, Pedro Gil Street corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila, or call 526-0184 or 523-9017.

FOR ACTIVE MEN. A breakthrough in the local market, the Rexona Sport Stick is the first and only deodorant and antiperspirant for active men that has deosteral max, a patented ingredient that works three ways. One, it keeps you dry; two, it keeps on working and three, it works 24 hours. Rexona Sport Stick also has no added germicides, which may cause harm to its users. The very composition of Rexona Sport Stick helps combat malodors for good. Rexona Sport Stick contains a unique masculine fragrance that kills germs and prevents malodor whenever men use it after showering. Rexona Sport Stick also comes in 25-g deodorant stick refills—the first of its kind in the world—in all supermarkets nationwide.



WORLD of Health has its own manufacturing arm run by Michael Crook, a well-respected nutritionist and biochemist. Its products include XXXL Weight Gain, Amino capsules and tablets, Turbo Charge, Creating Monohydrate, Chitosan, Pure Whey Protein, Cod Liver Oil and children's vitamins. Available at SM Health and Beauty outlets, SM Family Drug Stores and selected fitness centers. Call 747-6460.

NEW SKIN CARE PRODUCT. Facial Care Centre is introducing a new treatment to give your skin a rejuvenating fix from the sizzling heat. VEtamin, which was derived from the fusion of vegetable essences and Vitamin C, is a cool and refreshing treatment exclusively available at FCC. The VEtamin treatment is formulated with algae and high contents of Vitamin C (from oranges) and Dill. FCC's VEtamin works

by stimulating and increasing the collagen synthesis, resulting in diminished wrinkle formation and increasing the skin's elasticity. Visit FCC or call 817-3323 or 812-6080 to 81 (Makati); 687-2196, 687-2197, 631-3007 and 631-3045 (Ortigas); 372/6634, 410-3709 to 10 (QC); 534-7701 to 02 and 717-0076 (Shaw); 842-1144, 809-9583 and 850-4577 (Alabang); 242-2148/85 (Binondo); 233-7631/33 and 233-7635 (Cebu).

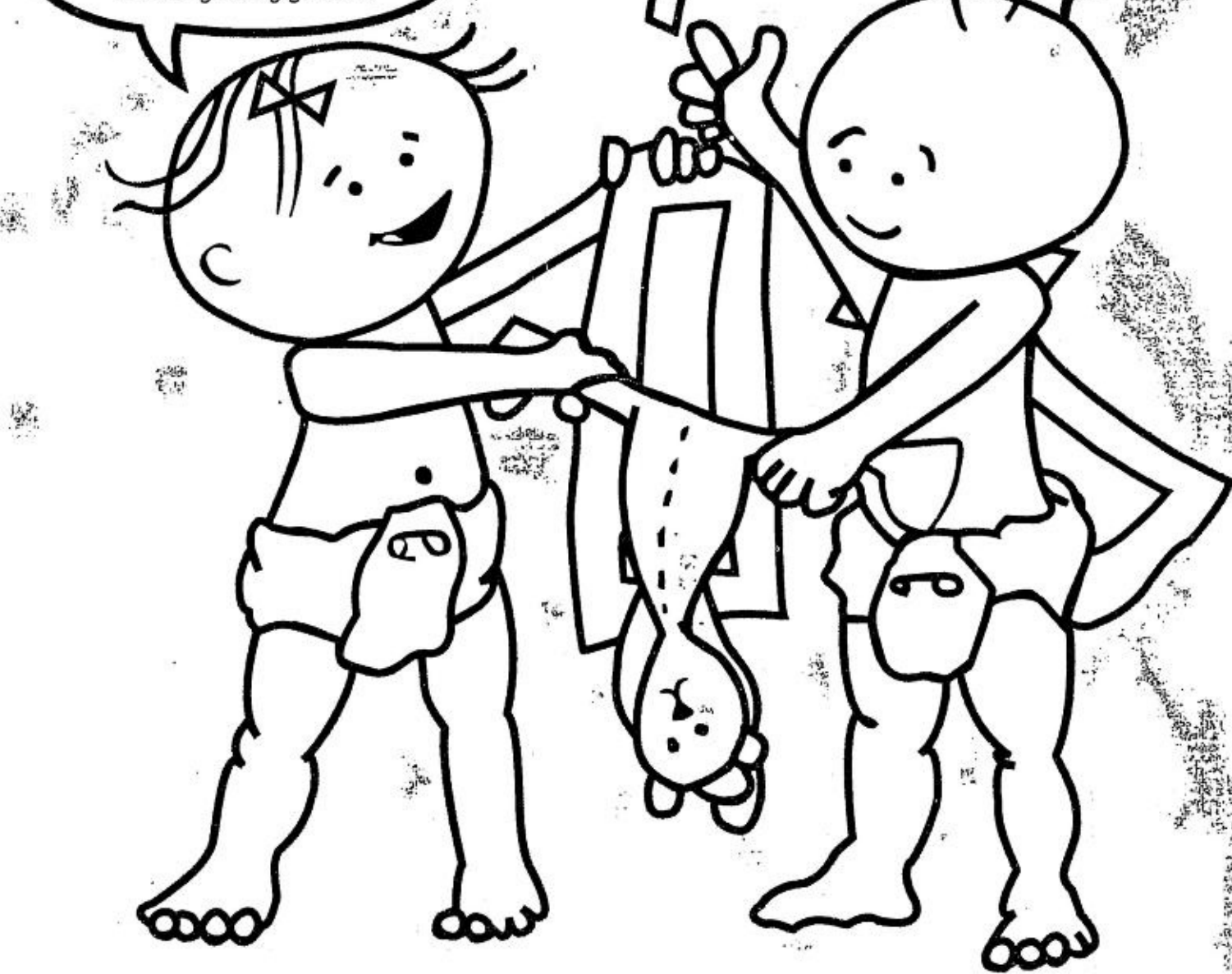


FREE OB-GYNE CONSULTATIONS. Dr. Weng Jean-Jacquet of the Philippine General Hospital gives out free OB-gyne advice to Liel Salanga at the Ever Gotesco, Commonwealth, QC. Kimberly-Clark Phils. Inc. with Mercury Drug provides free consultations in selected drugstore outlets. The free services are part of K-CPI's series of activities in celebration of Women's Month last March. K-CPI quality products were also given away.



SPLASH Manufacturing Corp. discovers the magic of tea tree oil by combining its natural anti-microbial properties with the pH-balancing of lactic acid to come up with Sanicyd, a revolutionary feminine wash that not only maintains the vagina's pH-balance, but also prevents common infections and irritations. Sanicyd is the only feminine wash in the market that contains both lactic acid and all the pluses of tea tree oil.

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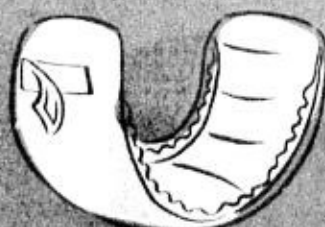


Ilapat ang diaper pad sa underwear o lampin ni baby.

3



Isoot ang underwear o lampin kay baby. Kung kailangang magpalit, tanggalin lamang ang gamit nang diaper pad at magdikit ng bago.



Kimbies
DIAPER PADS

How to protect your skin from UV rays

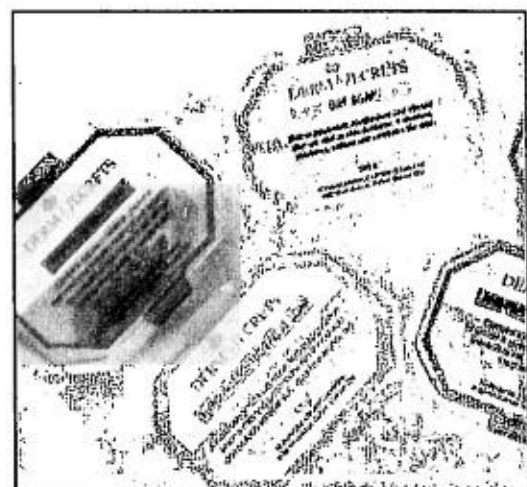
WITH THE THINNING of the ozone layer and modern recreational activities now usually confined to the outdoors, more and more people have fallen prey to the effects of UV rays. In the US, statistics show that more than 7,000 Americans die from melanoma every year.

Since nobody can avoid the sun altogether, how can we make our skin cancer-proof? Below are some recommendations from skin experts or dermatologists.

- Schedule outdoor activities before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. The sun's rays are at their strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Maintain a steady supply of sunscreens and sunblocks. Apply regularly prior to sun exposure; reapply when needed. However, wearing sunscreen is not a license for you to spend more time under the sun. Other rays can still go through the sunscreen (UVA and infrared) and can cause damage to the skin and its immune system.
- When going out, make sure you wear light-colored, tightly woven clothing. Light-colored clothes reflect light and UV rays; dark-colored ones absorb them.
- If you're outside, protect yourself with umbrellas, sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, long pants or long sleeved shirts. Apply sunblock on exposed areas.
- Stay under shaded areas when waiting outside. Playgrounds, recreation and other waiting areas should be provided with trees, canopies, awnings and pavilions where parents can wait as they wait for their children.
- Because 80 percent of our lifetime exposure to the sun occurs before age 18, make it a point to educate your children on the dangers of overexposure to the sun. Teach them to practice sun-safety measures.
- Limit exposure to medical and industrial X-rays and cancer-inducing compounds such as coal and arsenic.

While patients are more likely to discover malignant melanomas, doctors usually find them at an earlier, more treatable stage. Oftentimes, these are the ones which are located at the patient's back or the buttocks. In some cases, doctors find thinner ones, patches that can go unnoticed, under the naked eye. Thus, it is always advisable to consult your doctor and have a regular checkup to see if you've missed something. In moles, for instance, any change in size, shape, color, texture, or if you develop new ones after age 21, is enough reason to send you straight to the dermatologist.

Dermclinic gives specialized treatments for all types of skin diseases. Dermclinic dermatologists are trained to focus on the patient's need and provide them the best possible care. Visit their 17 branches in Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo and Pampanga, or call the Dermclinic hotlines at 818-6274 or 813-1064.



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DermSecret's aromatherapy soap are made from natural garden extracts, thus making this therapeutic cleanser more nourishing and soothing to the skin. There are 11 health and beauty soaps in CM Star's Derm Secret's Skin Care and Bath Line. Visit the CM Star offices at 86 Ninth Ave., Cubao, QC or call 913-9066 or 912-5667.

Steps toward a stronger, more flexible you

(From page C1)

up to her ears even after giving birth.

Liesl derived her grace and flexibility from her ballet lessons with Lydia Gaston. While a music major at the University of the Philippines, she was a scholar in Ballet Philippines from 1983-86. Liesl was so adventurous in trying anything new she even joined the now-defunct SuperBody Fitness contest. Every day for six months, it took her two-hour gym workouts and outdoor aerobics to achieve the cuts in her body. But eventually she got weary of the predictable workout.

The jazz class begins with a series of warm-ups—localized movements that prepare the students for expansive dancing. You stand and sit, working on various body parts one at a time before doing kicks, jumps and easy turns.

The class builds up to a short dance routine—set to MTV hits—that enables the students to let go of their inhibitions and have fun. Liesl disciplines her students in following the correct form. She makes sure that the bones are aligned and the muscles are in their proper placement.

With slow learners, she's patient in helping them get coordinated.

Jazz dancing may look like all arms, legs and hip twitching. All the movements are propelled from the center of gravity in your body. It's like the hub of a wheel, with all the moving parts around it being spokes. A strong center enables you to manipulate your limbs through the muscle action that starts from the pelvis. Finding your center lets you put gravity to work for you.

The big and bold movements in jazz give you the liberty to express yourself. Many enjoy jazz because it uses pop music with a strong beat. It looks familiar because you see it frequently performed on MTV.

Sofia says women take up jazz as an alternative to the tedious gym workout. "It's a nicer way of shaping your body. It makes you feel young again. When you do jazz, it makes you feel sexy, especially when you've got kids and you're moving around."

Liesl admits when she met her future husband James, also a dancer-choreographer, the attraction was physical. Even after three children, she

has not allowed her body to slacken. She keeps herself as desirable as she was when they first met, thanks to all that jazz.

Don't fight it

For people who have two left feet or who find dancing too sissy, power boxing (also called kickboxing, "boxercise," "cardioboxing" and the patented name Taebo) is becoming a popular form of fitness and cross-training.

The key is finding an instructor who has been trained in proper technique. Vanessa is the only certified Taebo instructor in the Philippines. She is also certified by the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, the New York Fitness Professionals Association, American Council on Exercise and the American Heart Association (Basic Life Support Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation).

The petite Vanessa, who has a 23-inch waistline from teaching two to five classes a day, is a spokesperson for Alaska and Nike. Professional swimmers, badminton and basketball players cross-train with Vanessa before they do their routines.

Vanessa says defense aerobics is popular now because it brings faster results. Her loyal students who used to take up the conventional aerobics program with her lost inches and improved their body tone when they took up power boxing. In conventional aerobics, you basically move your legs and arms, contract your abdominals and burn some 400-600 calories an hour. In defense aerobics, you burn 800-1,200 per hour or the equivalent of two meals. The power comes from the legs, hips and back and is discharged through the fists. It requires strength and power, hand-eye coordination in the punches, footwork drill for agility.

Vanessa starts her power-boxing class with simulated power-boxing moves, followed by stretches. The main workout is 45 minutes of punches and kicks. The punches firm up the back and the arms. The knee raises and kicks strengthen the abdomen and the lower extre-

LIESL and Vanessa do their "Charlie's Angels" poses.

mities. Some movements combine the punches and the kicks.

Since dancing and aerobics are sometimes looked upon as sissy activities, power boxing attracts a lot of men. For one, there is no set choreography unlike aerobics and the movements are not daunting like dancing, especially for people who aren't very coordinated or musical. Although guys won't look like Evander Holyfield after several sessions, they'll certainly notice there's more room in their clothes.

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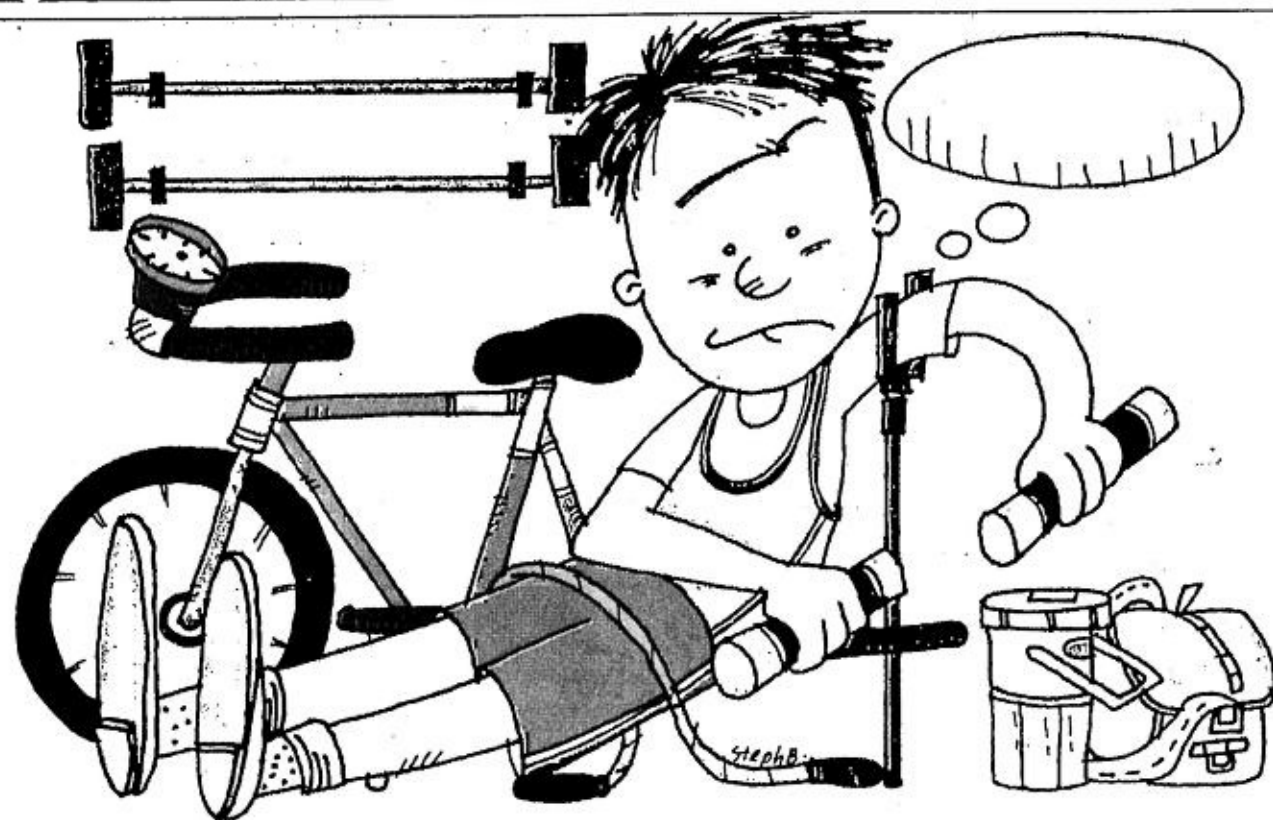


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Are you exercising too much?

MOST people don't exercise enough but there are some people who exercise too much. Too little exercise is just as bad as too much exercise. Both extremes are not good for you. If you are an inconsistent exerciser and you can't even remember the date of your last exercise session, you don't need to worry if you are exercising too much. However, if you are an exercise "addict," you might wonder if you are doing too much.

Just because a person works out several hours a day (like many athletes, both amateur and professional) does not automatically mean that he or she is exercising too much. People are different and what is overexercise for one person is just a "warm-up" for another.

Symptoms of too much exercise

The way to find out if you are overtraining is to check if you have the following symptoms because these are classic signs of too much exercise

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan



according to fitness professional Trisha Leahy ("Overtraining," AsiaFit Magazine). As you will see, overtraining is not the mild exhaustion you feel the day after a heavy workout. It is a much more serious condition than that.

Physical symptoms include decline in performance, inability to maintain exercise program, chronic fatigue, elevated resting heart rate, hormonal changes, slower heart rate recovery, elevated blood pressure, persistent muscle soreness, loss of appetite, unexplained loss of weight, headaches, heavy legged feeling, frequent colds and flu, gastrointestinal disturbances and menstrual irregularities.

Psychological symptoms are depression, decreased self-confidence, mood changes, apathy, lethargy, low motivation, lack of concentration, anxiety, sleep disturbance, irritability/excitability, boredom, inability to relax, anger/aggressiveness.

Causes of overtraining

Exercise is meant to be a little stressful on the body. The body overcompensates for the stress of exercise by making you stronger, faster, firmer, more energetic, etc. If your body is not challenged somewhat, you won't see results. Overtraining occurs when, as Barbara Brehm of Fitness Management Magazine puts it, "the stress of training, often combined with the stress of life, becomes too much for the body to handle."

We know now that we cannot separate our

We cannot separate our bodies from our minds or emotions. One affects the other. It's the same for overtraining

bodies from our minds or emotions. One affects the other. It is the same for overtraining. Too much physical activity can make you feel exhausted and irritable. On the other hand, psychological stress can also turn an otherwise realistic workout program into an exercise overload. As an example, Leahy cites emotional factors that can physically affect elite athletes. These are the demands of competition, the desire to win, the fear of failure, unreasonably high goals and expectations of significant others. Amateur or professional athletes are not the only ones who can be affected by psychological stress. Recreational exercisers can also go through highly stressful situations at work or at home that can affect their workout programs.

Other factors that can push your regular workout over the edge are poor eating habits and lack of sleep.

How to prevent overtraining

Even though mild overtraining can be "cured" by three to seven days of complete rest (more severe cases can take a few months for full recovery), prevention is always a better strategy. Listen to your body—if your workouts don't seem like fun anymore and you are always tired, your body is telling you it needs a break.

Vary your workout schedule so you have alternating strenuous and light days. According to Brehm, research suggests this is the best way to train hard while avoiding the problems of overtraining. She says one day of rest each week is mandatory.

Don't try to do too much, too soon. For example, if you are used to walking three times a week for 30 minutes at a brisk pace, it would be foolish and dangerous to suddenly switch to a running program for an hour five times a week. A gradual progression in intensity, duration, or frequency will go a long way in preventing overtraining.

Get enough sleep (most people need seven to eight hours). Eat quality carbohydrates (complex and unprocessed) and protein (lean without much fat). Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. Drink 10-12 glasses of fluid daily.

If you are stressed out by your lifestyle, don't jack up your exercise program thinking that this is the way to release stress and anxiety. Neither should you stop exercising altogether because working out is a proven mood lifter. Just remember that you are in a vulnerable psychological state and you may need to lessen the intensity, frequency or duration of your exercise program during that period.

Don't be fit but sickly

The greatest danger of overtraining is the effect it has on the immune system. Exercise boosts and strengthens the immune system but too much exercise can really make you sick. According to Leahy, "forced withdrawal of elite athletes from competition due to acute or chronic infections are not uncommon." It sounds like a paradox but you can actually be both fit and sickly at the same time.

Note: Dear readers, a virus wiped out my e-mail files. If you have a question that you sent me that hasn't been answered in the column yet, please e-mail it to me again.

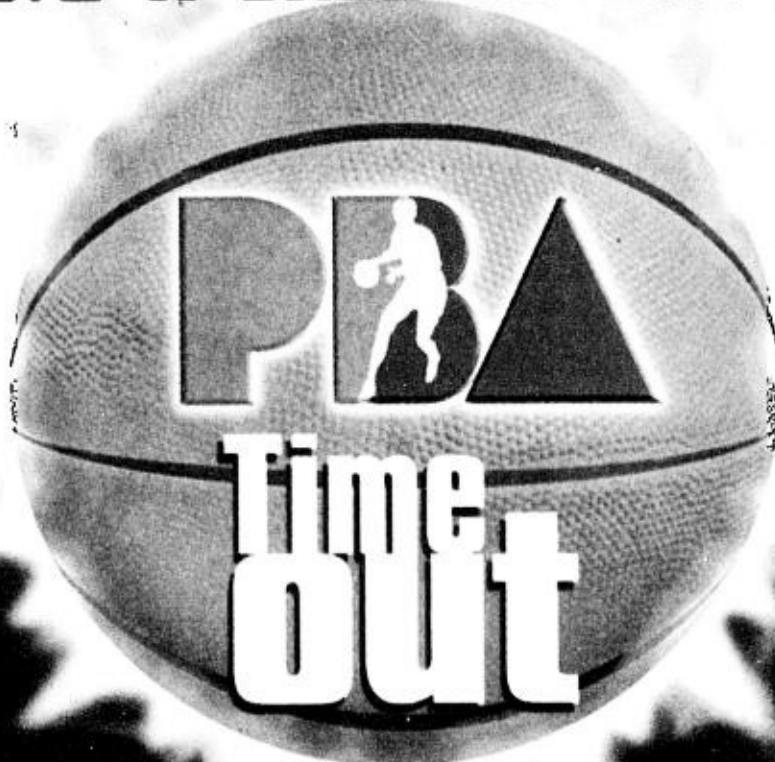
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EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Hanging reverse curl

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

THIS variation specifically focuses on the abdominal muscle since the legs are not moving.

Equipment:
Gym "high chair"

Exercise technique:

1. Start by crossing your legs at the ankles.
2. Curl your lower body by tilting pelvis upward. Do not try to raise legs. It is a very small movement. Do not expect legs to move a lot.
3. Slowly release pelvis back to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. This is not a leg raise but a reverse curl done in a vertical hanging position.
2. Remember that this is a small movement of the pelvis, not a swinging of the legs.
3. Avoid hunching shoulders. Keep them relaxed and pressed down away from your ears.

Repetitions:
Do 12-15 repetitions. Rest. Do one more set.



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NURSING bed

A better lifestyle awaits the physically challenged

A specialty store of equipment, gadgets and paraphernalia meets the needs of senior citizens and the disabled, and creates a difference in their lives

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

SPECIAL people can now have a more active lifestyle. A specialty shop at the corner of Leon Guinto Street and President Quirino Avenue caters to their "simple needs" but offers "a world of difference."

Opened last Dec. 8 by Eulalia Lim with the Ayuyaos as partners, Total Loving Care carries over 500 equipment, gadgets and paraphernalia for senior citizens and physically challenged individuals. Lim was inspired to have such a store in the country when she discovered one called Total Living Care in Napa Valley, California.

Lim, chair of the De La Salle University board of trustees and daughter of wartime hero Gen. Vicente Lim, was affected by polio when she was still an infant. She used to walk around on crutches, but when she reached her 50s, she found herself tiring quickly.

"Yung akay-akay—I hate that," Lim says. "If I want to get something, I'd want to go to it myself."

So she chose to get herself a scooter-like vehicle with a rechargeable battery that she saw a handicapped man using in California. Smaller, narrower and sleeker than the regular wheelchair, this is the kind of vehicle she's using until now.

It's called the Rally Motorized Wheelchair, one of the various models of mobile chairs that the TLC shop carries.

"I prefer this one, because the other makes you look like a handicapped," she says. "I can go to malls in it. As I'm a concerned citizen, I can go to rallies in it, too. In fact, I go around the world with it."

Flexi-furniture

The most expensive wheelchair in Lim's shop is the Scalambol, which, at P600,000, can go up and down the stairs like a robot. It needs the support of a second person, though, one who can carry a sixth of his body weight.

There are specially ramps of various lengths and widths. And there are motorized tracks which, at P450, enable a wheelchair-bound individual to go upstairs and downstairs without the aid of a second person.

TLC is not all wheelchairs, however. Many other gadgets and accessories that one can imagine a handicapped person would need are here, from flexi-furniture to bathroom aids.

The Lazy Boy Recliner, an utterly soft armchair upholstered with velvet, helps a person sit up, stand or recline flat with the aid of a remote control. This complements the bed that rises, inclines or flattens at the push of a button.

The Sitting-Pretty Toilet Seat Raiser, which comes in varying heights, eliminates the strain incapacitated persons undergo just to transfer from wheelchair to toilet bowl and back. Bathroom items include a shampoo tray (no need to move head and shoulders too much) and a shower chair (with rubber leg caps to eliminate slippiness).

Necessary gadgets

There are items which normal people often ignore but are necessities to the handicapped: leg lifter (a loop on a stick); easy reacher (a gadget that can lift an object up to 4 pounds); leg spacer (cushion placed between the legs when sleeping); scissors for the left-handed; embroidery mirror (lens for the poor-sighted who wants to do some embroidery); calculator and universal remote control with big buttons; assorted magnifying glasses (calling-card size, big size, illuminated magnifier, ruler glass); bladder-control protection (thin diaper with gel which can hold two cups of fluid for up to 14 hours); para-bath (a device with warm paraffin therapy for stiff fingers, arthritis); pocket talker (Walkman-type hearing aid at P11,000, compared to the P50,000 regular hearing aid).

"I'm the best seller for these kinds of things," Lim says, "because I have also a handicap. I only rely on certain people to demonstrate their functions." (This afternoon, store manager Ayet Ayuyao is demonstrating for the visitors.)

Some items aren't just for the handicapped, however. The wind-up radio, at P5,000, is especially designed for powerless days as during an earthquake or typhoon. It is solar-good for four hours) and self-powered (45 minutes).

The huggable stuffed teddy bear, a literal hot seller, can serve as a hot compress. Microwave it and it emits an aromatic therapeutic scent. The various types of pillows and backrests have been designed to ease the numerous strains and stress inflicted upon the body during the day.

TLC even sells colorful drinking glasses, little purling fountains, pill splitters, beautifying creams and vitamin supplements.

As Lim says: "This shop is for senior citizens, for physically challenged individuals, but also for normal people—to make their lifestyle better."



STAIRTRAC



LAZY Boy and Ergo table



EULALIA Lim in scooter-like wheelchair, the Rally Motorized Wheelchair



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St. Luke's symposium gathers experts on cardiology

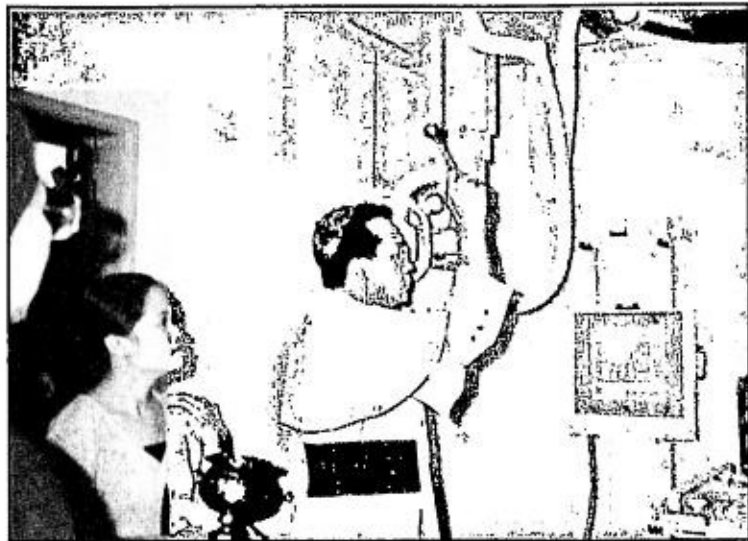
ST. Luke's Medical Center, with the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), sponsors the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and St. Luke's Medical Center symposium entitled "A Symposium on Congestive Heart Failure and Emerging Epidemics," on May 21-22, at the Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. The symposium is part of St. Luke's continuing lecture series with the world's best medical and healthcare institutions.

Invited experts from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation's Department of Cardiology are Dr. Gary Francis, medical director of the Coronary Intensive Care Unit; Dr. Mario Garcia, head of the Echocardiography Laboratory; Dr. Andrea Natale, director of the Electrophysiology Laboratory; and Dr. Roger Mills, staff doctor. Joining them from the St. Luke's Heart Insti-

tute are Dr. Homobono Calleja, director emeritus; Dr. Nestor Santiago, section chief of the Cardiac Care Unit; and Dr. Ariel Miranda, department head of Invasive Cardiology.

Registration fees are P2,000 with PHA delegates to be given a 50-percent discount, while medical residents, medical fellows and other paramedical trainees will be given a 75 percent discount upon presentation of a letter of status of ongoing training from their program director or work ID. Participants who are not PHA delegates but are in active practice will be required to pay the registration fee in full.

Call St. Luke's Symposium Secretariat care of the Corporate Relations and Fund Development Department at 727-5456, 723-0301, locals 5456 and 4219. Or e-mail corprelations@stluke.com.ph.



SAN JUAN DE DIOS MARKS 423RD YEAR

The San Juan de Dios Hospital recently celebrated its 423rd founding anniversary with the unveiling of its digital systems for diagnostic excellence. Equipped with Toshiba's cutting-edge technology, the medical equipment are used in the Radiology section of the hospital. Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila and vice chair of the SJDEFI board, led the blessing.

How to combat breast cancer

BREAST cancer ranks among the most dreaded disease. It is the third common form of cancer worldwide and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among the country's women population. This dreadful statistics are pretty hard to digest and enough to cause anxiety.

However, you can choose not to become part of the statistics by following these sound tips to reduce women's vulnerability to breast cancer. Start yourself on a new lifestyle for a healthy body all year through.

● **Eat right, eat moderately.** Forget those charbroiled steaks and tempting desserts. Stack up on legume, green leafy vegetables and fruits. Studies have shown that women whose diets are rich in animal fat, salt and sugar are more likely to have breast cancer, more than those who eat healthy. So a switch on your diet may spell the difference.

● **Revamp your lifestyle.** Studies have shown that lack of exercise results in breast cancer. Unhealthy habits such as taking alcoholic drinks and smoking also contribute to a higher risk of getting breast cancer. To maintain a healthy body, exercise

regularly. Establish a routine exercise. Also, try to cut down or stay away completely from drinking alcoholic beverages and smoking.

● **Do the breast self-examination (BSE)** as an important way to detect early signs of breast cancer. Make BSE a monthly habit by including it in your routine every month, one week after your menstruation.

● **Manage your stress.** According to studies, women who go through life suffering from chronic stress are more likely to develop breast cancer. Stress may result from excessive worrying, apprehensions about life's problems and anxiety about a lot of things. To combat stress, think happy and maintain a positive outlook in life.

● **Have a breast mammography.** Women 40-50 above are advised to have a mammography annually. Mammography helps maintain healthy breasts and detect any unusual conditions such as information of cancer cells early.

Combat breast cancer by sticking to these resolutions. After all, good health and peace of mind can do wonders for a whole year and more!

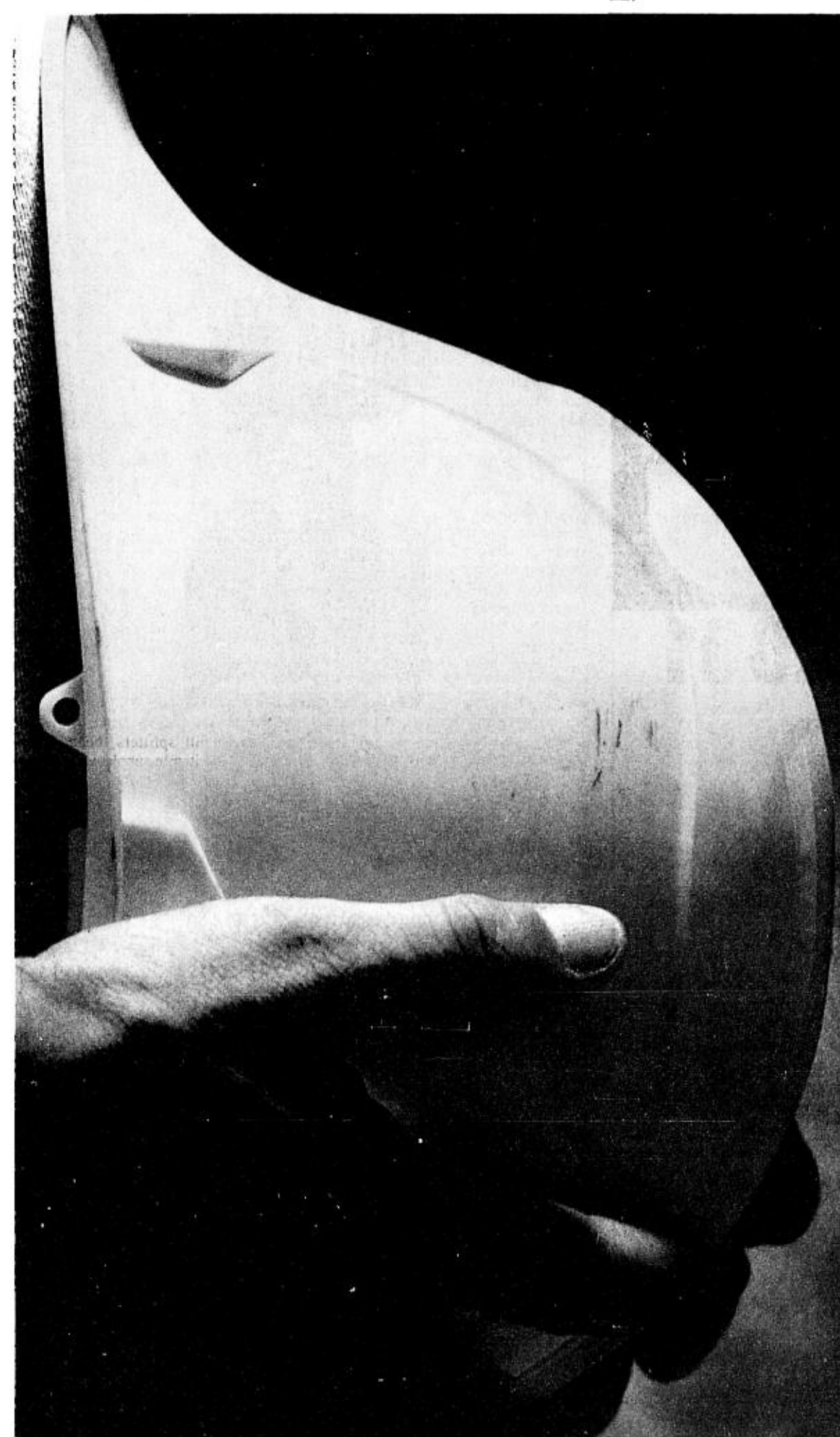
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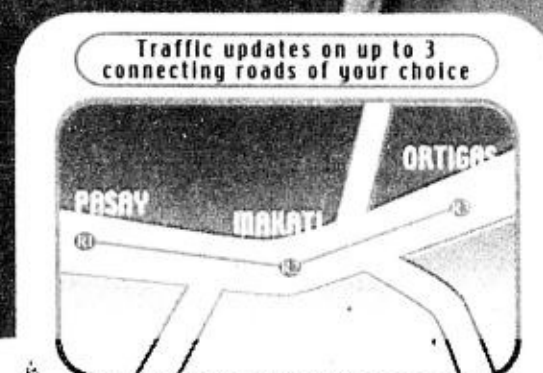
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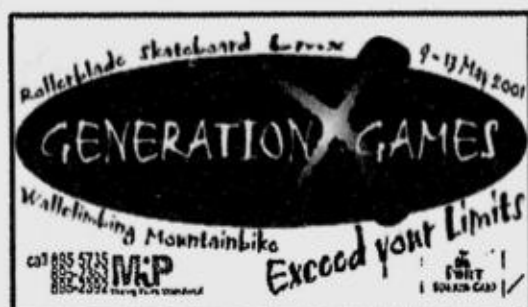
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Breathtaking news

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

ASTHMA is no joking matter. Parents of asthmatic children go through hell each time a child experiences an attack. The summer months are particularly difficult—the deadly combination of heat and smog certainly have a deleterious effect on the health of these children.

In the Philippines for a series of lectures on the Buteyko Method of Breathing Reconditioning is Jac Vidgen, an Australian, senior Buteyko practitioner who promises to bring relief and breath of hope to those suffering from asthma and other related disorders. Vidgen has been involved with the Buteyko method for the past seven years. Previously based in Sydney, he did regular workshops there as well as in New South Wales. He is the first practitioner to bring the method to Southeast Asia. He has been featured on the CNN morning show in Asia and trained by Alexander Stalmatski, a leading protégé of Dr. Buteyko. Vidgen however is quick to say that the method is not easy and requires commitment and dedication. To those who are willing to commit, he promises great improvement in health.

"Breathing is the most basic thing we do every day," Vidgen begins to tell us. How much should we breathe? A normal person, Vidgen says, takes 20,000-30,000 breaths per day. Most people think that "the more breaths, the better." Vidgen says this is a misconception and any examination of the physiology of respiration indicates that this concept is quite misleading—even dangerous.

Beginnings

The treatment was developed in the 1950s in Russia by a Russian medical doctor and scientist, Dr. Konstantin Pavlovich Buteyko. Dr. Buteyko made some clinical observations and discoveries, which revealed that human breathing habits seem to have strayed from what our physiology books describe as normal. What he identified as increasingly prevalent in modern society is low level (and mostly hidden) hyperventilation, which he discovered is a major underlying cause of human illness. Buteyko further noticed that by reducing this overbreathing to more normal respiratory volume levels, a whole range of diseases and their symptoms improved. He then developed a program for enabling patients to retrain their breathing pattern, which has evolved into the Buteyko technique.

Stress

Stress is a well-known stimulant for hyperventilation. As a response to stress, the heart rate increases, breathing deepens and hormone production changes. Vidgen says that during most of the period of evolution of the human body, stress occurred simultaneously with physical activity for which these responses were quite appropriate. "When our ancestors were startled by the proverbial lion, their respiration would increase. Doing so would rid them of carbon dioxide which made room for the rapid build-up during the subsequent effort at escaping the

BREATHTAKING/
p.D2

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Breathtaking news

Buteyko promises to bring relief and breath of hope to those suffering from asthma and other related disorders

(From page D1)

lion." Vidgen explains, "The stress then was short-lived. If you weren't eaten by the lion, you would escape and your stress would disappear." Nowadays, however, most of the stress occurs while our bodies are at rest—in which case the above responses become quite inappropriate. In prolonged periods of stress, deeper breathing becomes an unrecognized, unconscious and continuous habit and physiological pattern. Once the body becomes conditioned to the lower levels of carbon dioxide, the respiratory mechanism drives a person to breathe more than he needs to, thus keeping the levels low. Vidgen further explains that with low levels of carbon dioxide, the body's smooth muscle tissue can go into spasm or constriction, creating problems in the

sinus passages, lungs, arteries, heart and digestive system. When hyperventilation is triggered to increase air, the lungs of an asthma sufferer react with constriction of airways, excess mucus production and swelling—as in the symptoms of asthma.

In the same way that lingering stress sustains hyperventilation long enough for the respiratory center to adapt to lower levels of carbon dioxide, so too Buteyko therapy works by breathing over a long time. Under the program, patients learn to recognize their own overbreathing pattern and how to retrain their breathing to normal levels. A range of adverse symptoms are reversed, and relief from asthma and many other conditions follow. The following benefits are typically observed:

- Recovery of nasal breathing. This allows for effective filtration, humidification, regulation of temperature and airflow, as well as reduction of allergen entry.

- For asthmatics, relief of acute bronchospasm through the bronchodilatory properties of carbon dioxide, leading rapidly to a reduction in the need for bronchodilators; then reconditioning of the automatic breathing pattern and avoidance of bronchospasm with continued practice and application of Buteyko's methods.

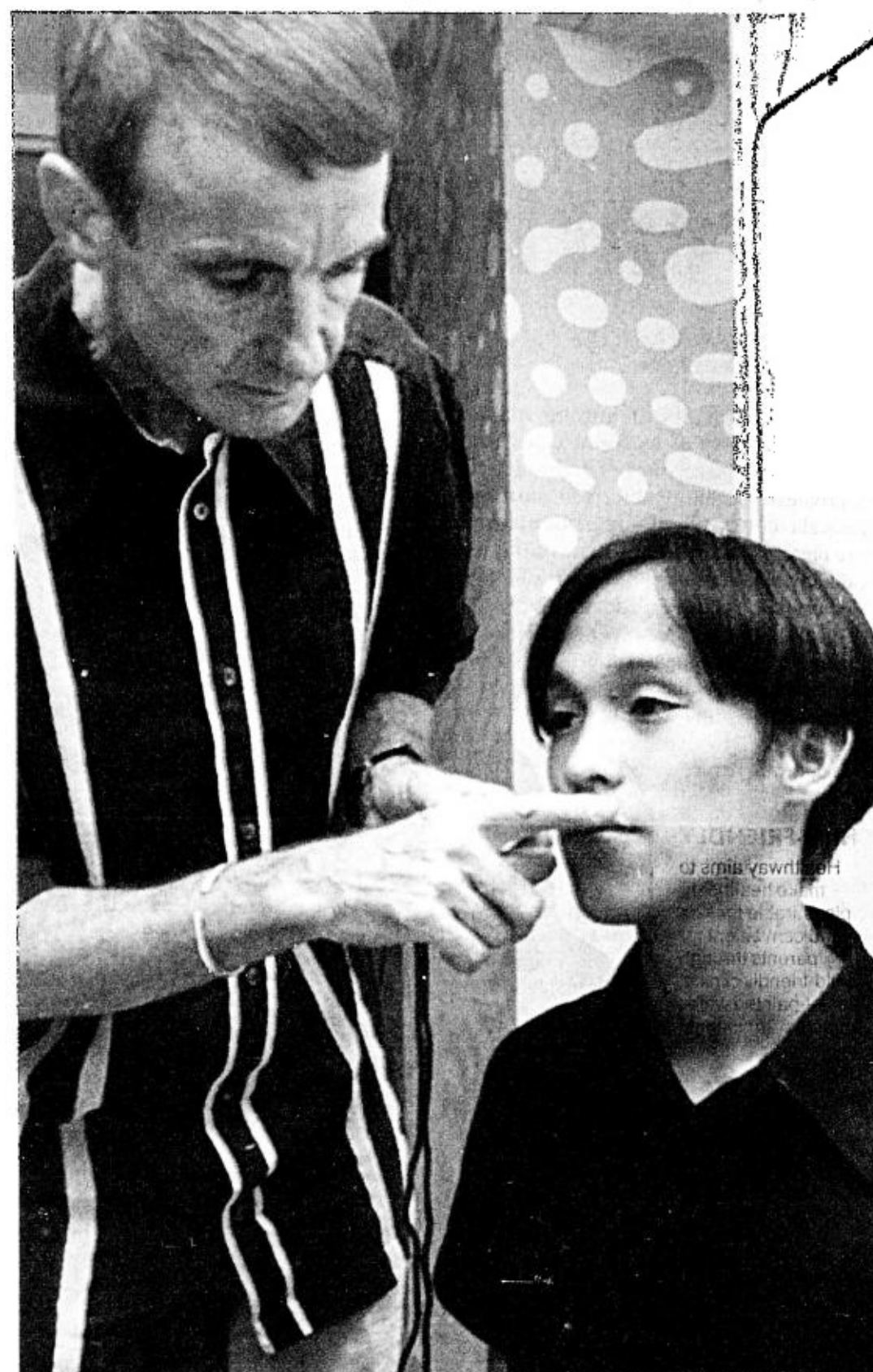
- Reduction of excess mucus
- Improvement in a range of other conditions such as allergies, rhinitis, sinusitis, anxiety disorders, apnea, snoring and emphysema
- Improvement in quality of sleep
- Increased energy levels and enhanced sports performance

Vidgen says the manner of teaching is varied depending on the individual's age, history, condition and response. Some lifestyle modifications involving posture, nutrition, sleep and exercise are recommended to enhance the benefits of the breathing exercises.

Workshops are taught in five two-hour sessions and class size is kept to a minimum of 5-15 participants. Patients are supplied with notes and support materials during the workshops to include diaries for recording of exercise results, pulse variations, symptoms, medication, reports of sleep length and quality and energy levels. Vidgen concludes by saying that changing unconscious breathing patterns requires much discipline, perseverance and persistence but the results and benefits gained from such dedication is truly, as the song goes, worth every breath you take.

Jac Vidgen is conducting workshops until May 16. Contact Palou at 929-9901 or Sonia at 427-2172.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



BUTEYKO Method of Breathing demo by Jac Vidgen, senior Buteyko practitioner in Asia

Meditation can help unleash one's psychic powers

THE FOLLOWING is a typical series of questions I have received from several readers in the last few weeks. This one comes from a man:

"I've experienced many times seeing events before they happen. I am able to predict or immediately sense the mood of a person I know, even though I do not know what happened to her. I experience this with my female friends. But when I am no longer close to them, I lose this ability. Although not strong, I seem to hear or see paranormal things. This happens usually when recovering from a depressed state.

"I started experiencing these things after my friend taught me a meditation technique similar to that of Bruce Lee's and other martial artists of different times.

"I've been reading your articles and I would like to ask why this is happening to me. What is it? I think this has something to do with meditation because it seems to become stronger when I meditate.

"I believe in the third eye and in one of your articles you mentioned it can be developed. What ESP am I developing here?"

More and more people are experiencing spontaneous extrasensory or psychic perceptions, which at first continue them. Some even see forthcoming deaths or serious accidents of friends and relatives, and others see natural calamities before they happen. These bring fear and apprehension in them. Those who experience these usually ask how they can stop seeing them.

The reason many people nowadays are having spontaneous ESP abilities or out-of-body experiences is that there is a growing awareness or consciousness of such things among the public. Instead of being ignored, like before, people are beginning to ask why it happens. They want to know. This is a very good sign of the times.

Such experiences are becoming common because we are really all psychics. These spontaneous experiences are not unique or abnormal. Most of the time they consist of trivial or common place things and therefore we usually do not pay attention to them nor give them importance. We often attribute such things to coincidence or chance. But when something big is seen, then we pay attention.

Meditation has something to do with the development of ESP. The more we meditate, the stronger our ESP becomes because when we meditate, relax and become mentally passive, we tap or unleash the tremendous powers of our right intuitive and creative side of our brain. We also achieve brain synchronization of the two hemispheres or lobes of our brain, thereby making it a more powerful instrument. The right side of the

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licaucó



brain can access knowledge of past, present and future events.

The ability to see future events before they happen is technically called precognition (literally, "to know beforehand"). Time, as we know it, exists only on the physical plane. On the astral and spiritual planes, there is only the eternal now. So what a psychic is seeing is the now, or the present in the astral plane which will become a reality only later on the physical level. This may be difficult to understand and accept under the laws of Newtonian physics, but these are well explained by modern quantum physics.

When you are depressed, you are in a passive, almost meditative state. That's why you also experience strong ESP during those moments. But you can also experience these things when you are happy, carefree and free of worry.

People who are emotionally close to each other such as lovers, close friends, parent and child, twins, etc. are in psychic rapport with each other. In fact, they are constantly communicating to each other on the psychic level of their being. It is not surprising, therefore, that they can often read each other's moods, thoughts and feelings.

Yes, I have a seminar that develops the third eye, but this is a greatly misunderstood subject. Third eye does not lie between the eyebrows and it cannot be "opened" or stimulated by simply massaging that portion of your anatomy. The third eye really lies deep in the middle of the brain where the pineal gland is located. The pineal gland is the seat of telepathy and clairvoyance. An opened third eye only means the person is clairvoyant. He can see or feel what others cannot see or feel, such as spirits, thoughts of other people, subtle energy, the human aura, etc.

What you are developing is your precognitive ability, or the ability to see the future. This is only one of so many manifestations of ESP or psychic powers. Why limit yourself to that?

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauc@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauc for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.



Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.



Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Where and how can we avail of MEDICard's out-patient services and consultation?

You may directly proceed to our Head Office Clinic or to any of our Satellite Clinics at Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, and Medical City General Hospital. You may also go to our accredited hospitals by immediately going to our Medical Coordinator for initial treatment and/or referral slip to other specialists.

.Meet your MEDICard Team



Graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, Dr. Bienvenido S. Gaddi is one of the very few, in the field of Medicine, who has a well-rounded experience as Surgeon and Family Physician. Surgery being his chosen line of specialty and Family Medicine as his subspecialty, has given him a productive career since it has enabled him to broaden the scope of his professional practice. Dr. Gaddi joined our team of doctors way back 1988 when MEDICard was relatively new in the HMO industry. Presently, Dr. Gaddi is holding various chairmanships for the Fellow of the Phil. College of Surgeons. He also served as President of the Fellow of American College of Surgeons - Philippines Chapter. He is married to Ms. Nora Bernal Gaddi and they have 3 children. For consultations, you can visit him at St. Luke's Medical Center, MAB, Rm 236. Clinic Hours are M-T-TH-F, 10AM-12NN, 4PM-7PM; W & S, 9-11AM



Dr. Victoria Salvador - Aquino, earned her degree as Doctor of Medicine in Far Eastern University and later chose Obstetrics as her line of specialty. According to her, nothing can ever be more fulfilling an experience when seeing a mother giving birth to a new life. When she is less busy, she can be seen in the courts playing tennis which has been her first love ever since. If you want to avail of her services, you can visit her at Manila Doctor's Hospital. Her clinic schedule is every Mondays - 10AM-12NN/1-3PM, Wednesdays & Fridays, 1-5PM



MEDICard is very proud to have Dr. Antonio C. Oposa in its list of accredited doctors. He graduated in the University of the Philippines earning a degree in Medicine. He then decided to become a surgeon and later on specialized in vascular - thoracic surgery. Dr. Oposa has been with MEDICard for the last 13 years and has remained a favorite of several MEDICard clients until now. His favorite hobby is golf. For consultation, you can visit him at Rm. 401, Manila Doctor's Hospital. Clinic schedule is Monday to Friday 9AM - 12NN

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/P Sugitarius Bldg. 11V Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola / Ms. Milon Ruiz. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.



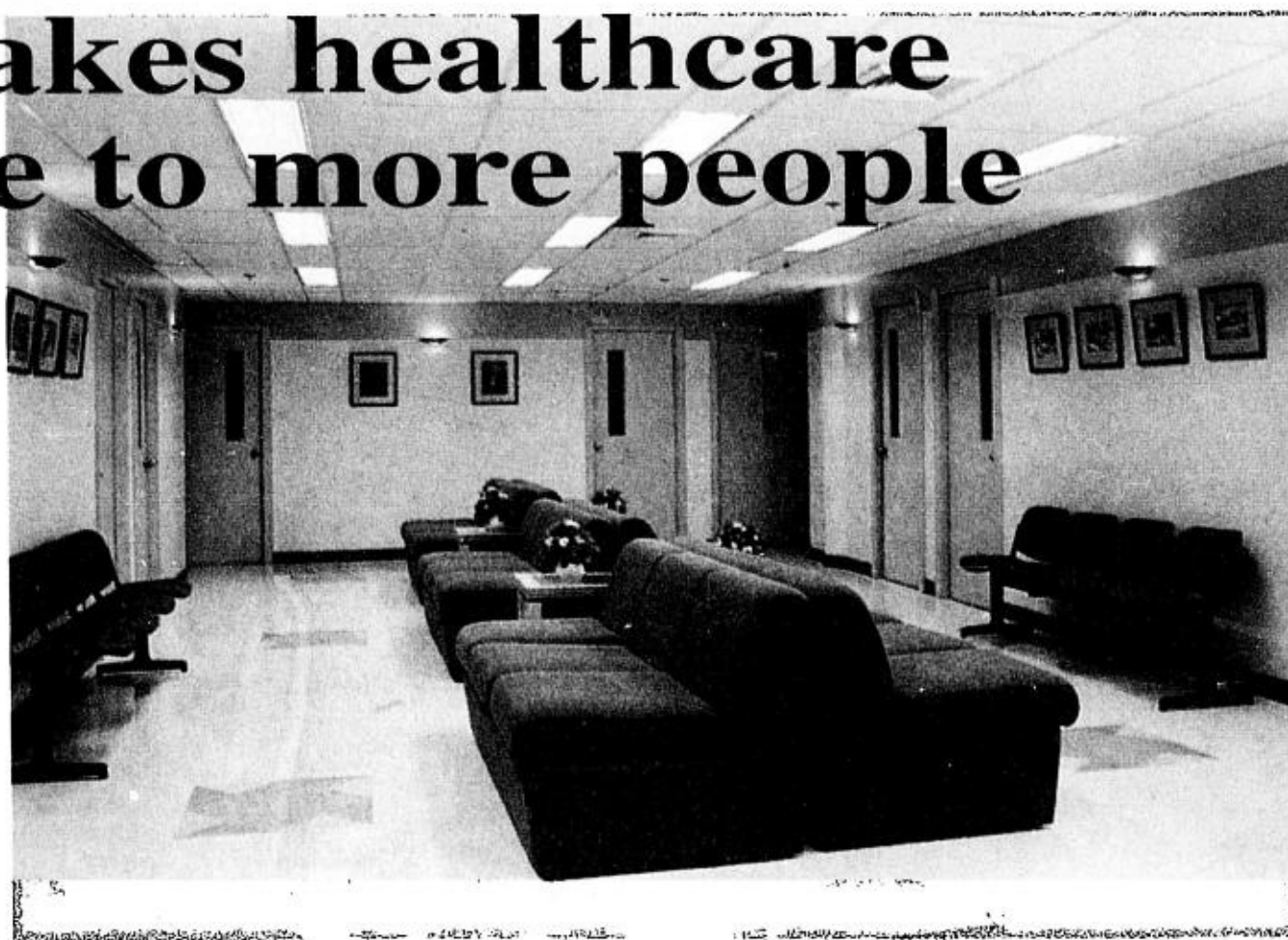
Card makes healthcare available to more people

HEALTHWAY Medical Clinics has taken another step to make healthcare available to every class of the society through its PrivilegeCard.

Holders of the card are entitled to various preventive and healthcare services without age limit, or premedical examinations, at an annual fee of only P950. This makes a healthy lifestyle more accessible and convenient.

Privileges include unlimited outpatient medical consultations by competent primary care physicians, annual physical examination and hefty discounts upon presentation of the PrivilegeCard at the network of Healthway Medical Clinics. With its outpatient medical centers in major shopping malls, business districts and residential areas, healthcare is integrated into people's lifestyle and daily tasks.

Healthway has a pool of competent family



CHILD-FRIENDLY

Healthway aims to make healthcare pleasurable for kids and convenient for parents through child-friendly clinics, pastel-painted walls, attractive furnishings and a playroom. Specialized pediatric services are not only pocket-friendly, the medical staff composed of competent pediatricians understand the importance of tenderness and care in promoting health and wellness.



NEW TREND

Healthway Medical Clinic has the most extensive network of well-appointed clinics located in major shopping malls, residential and business districts.

physicians, specialists and subspecialists in gynecology, obstetrics, pediatrics and surgery. Sophisticated laboratory and diagnostic equipment complete the "one-stop shop" clinic concept.

Call Healthway Medical Clinics' chain of outpatient medical centers at the basement of SM City North Edsa (tel. 926-9237 to -39) in QC; 2/F Paramount Building, Quintin Paredes St., Binondo (241-2066/2250) in Manila; 2/F Ayala Life Building, Ayala Avenue (893-7910/7920), 3/F The Plaza Building, Greenbelt Shopping Center (840-4477/4488) in Makati; 2/F Festival Mall (850-4263 to -65), 2/F Alabang Town Center (850-6723 to -30) in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, and the Laguna Technopark, Biñan ([049] 541-2632/2633) in Laguna.

Muros endorses world's first sports sandals

TEVA has chosen track and field champ Elma Muros as its first sports celebrity endorser for its sports sandals.

Among the company's latest product innovations, the Wraaptor and Liquid Frame technology forms and secures a continuous strapping system that "wraps" around the foot for unparalleled stability and motion support. Its spider rubber outsoles provide superior grip even on wet surfaces. Its blended EVA/polyurethane shoe pad evenly distributes foot impact energy throughout the footbed. And Teva's 3M Reflective coating on nylon webbings provide added visibility even in low light conditions.

Muros, eight-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, Olympic and Asian Games campaigner, is busy training for the upcoming SEA Games in Malaysia and coaching the University of the East women's athletic team.

Teva, the world's first sports sandals and the brainchild of Colorado river guide Mark Thatcher, combines the spirit of a sandal with the soul of a shoe. It offers a variety of sandal models to fit one's diverse and active lifestyle, be it casual utility or for other sport-specific performance applications.



Be honest.

Doesn't mineral-rich water from Mother Nature's bosom sound much better than purified tap water from the heart of Metro Manila?

An old adage reminds us that we are powerless to stop the wheels of progress from turning. The quality of life has improved by leaps and bounds, but not without trade-offs like pollution in the air, land and water.

One consequence urbanization has made painfully clear is the shortage of potable (let alone fresh and natural) water.

As life must go on, we have adapted by filtering, purifying or boiling what comes off the taps. For those who are more discerning about taste, quality and safety, bottled water is the only way to go.

You may be asking yourself at this very minute, "Does healthy, natural water still exist?" The answer is, Yes! Nowhere to be found in most metros, but yes, it does exist.

Sources of all that is pure

The Philippines has been blessed with diverse terrain and resources. In as much as growing communities have put a strain on our country's natural wealth, there are a few places that have been preserved and remain rich sources of things that are pure and natural. Mts. Makiling and Kanlaon are a couple of such places. These mountains are famous for their serenity and beauty as well as their rich natural resources.

It is therefore, no strange coincidence that VIVA! NATURAL MINERAL WATER is drawn from these sources. It passes through mineral-rich aquifer - layer of rocks, gravel and sand deep within the mountain's bosom. This is a natural filtering process, which takes years to complete. The result is mineral water that is as pure, natural and healthy.

Honest-to-goodness water made better

VIVA! NATURAL MINERAL WATER's story is about premium source. VIVA! painstakingly perfects what Mother Nature produces. It is hygienically drawn from natural underground springs. The water is then subjected to thorough filtering and purifying to ensure that every bottle of VIVA! NATURAL MINERAL WATER is free from harmful microorganisms while keeping the health-giving minerals intact.

To preserve the integrity and purity of the water, every batch goes through a strict Quality and Safety Testing.

These tests take place not just every month or every week but every hour of every day. The result is healthy, safe water you can trust.

All it takes is one phone call to be assured of an uninterrupted supply of VIVA! NATURAL MINERAL WATER for your family. They are available in convenient 5-gallon bottles. Free use of dispenser comes with your subscription!

Let's be honest. There is really very little we can do about the future of Metro Manila's drinking water. But isn't it reassuring to know that you can bring home the goodness of VIVA! NATURAL MINERAL WATER today?

With VIVA! NATURAL MINERAL WATER, you are always assured of great-tasting and safe drinking water.

Wash your excesses away



888 689 9111

Nature

The
'kasalikasan'
as designed
by Jerry
Araos will
alter the
common
idea of a
garden

PHOTO BY JERRY ARAOS

Nature follows a new course at Bonifacio Global City

A GARDEN
halfway between a
forest and a lawn,
with a golden pond

LET me heal the land and let me heal the hurt in the heart of a wounded nation!"

With this noble objective, Jerry Araos, one of the country's most respected artists, embarks on another distinguished project that will further secure his place in the pantheon of national figures. This project is no less than the creation of a magnificent public garden, virtually an extensive art piece all abloom right in the heart of the Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Kasalikasan, as this exalted garden will be called, is reserved in all of 3,556 sq m of prime Bonifacio Global City land beside Pacific Plaza Towers. It is destined to be a national landmark in the near future. It has recently moved from concept into actual creation with the formal contract signing between Araos and Carlos S. Rufino, executive director of the Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. (Bafi).

Bafi is an institution dedicated to enhance the aesthetic quality of Bonifacio Global City as part of FBDC's objective of combining state-of-the-art technology with art and culture.

Kasalikasan, a blend of words that means "one with nature," takes its roots back in 1997 when Bafi first sponsored its International Public Art Competition, in which Araos was adjudged as an honorary winner. With more than 300 entries from 18 countries, participated in by some of the most prominent artists in the global art scene, the contest at that time was regarded as one of the most prestigious art competitions in the world.

Araos' garden concept stood out because of his empathic mission of sanctifying Fort Bonifacio's grim past as a prison ground during the dark period of martial law under the Marcos regime. "This garden will be my creative way of forgiving. Through this, I want to show I can be an efficient creator, builder, life-giver," he explained.

Not that anybody doubted his creative potentials and achievements. In fact, Araos' reputation has been regarded with awe ever since he demonstrated his prowess as sculptor, painter, photographer, writer and, yes, gardener, with an Asean Artist award to his name.

His Kasalikasan, though, will definitely alter



the common idea of a garden. "A garden is halfway between a forest and a lawn, where there is interaction between human and ecological forces," he said.

His description evokes a paradise. "There will be spaces for meditation where you look inward, and there will be spaces for social communications, where you look outward toward your fellows. These will be like amphitheaters, for concerts, poetry reading and dramas," he said.

"There will be close to a thousand named plants so I will achieve a broad range of biodiversity. I dislike mono-cropping, like the planting system that you regularly see, with so many plants of the same kind all together. In Kasalikasan, no two plants will be the same in any area. I will create that area into a separate biosphere, with its own micro-climate. Animals like birds and lizards will definitely come and prosper within, achieving direct interaction with humans," he boasted.

Aside from the planned amphitheaters and other significant spaces, a specially designated parapet called the Eastment, which he said would be "the longest sculpture in the country," will cover the length of Kasalikasan.

A prototype of this ambitious creation has been quietly growing in Araos' plot in Antipolo, Rizal. Here he has carved various stone steps, channeled water to create a most natural-looking pond, arranged numerous exotic plants as though they grew in the wild, strewn different kinds of rocks and pebbles, and erected sculptures and structures all in a mere 600-sq m domain.

While it has taken him years to bring this personal project in its present state, he plans to complete Kasalikasan within three to six months. By the middle or latter part of 2001, it will already showcase the most spectacular natural and unique artwork in Bonifacio Global City and indeed in the whole country, further demonstrating the beauty of life as it should be.

IN THE WORKS.
Public garden
project will soon be
completed.



DESIGNER Jerry Araos surrounded by daughter Roja (left), Jenny Cortes and splendid greenery

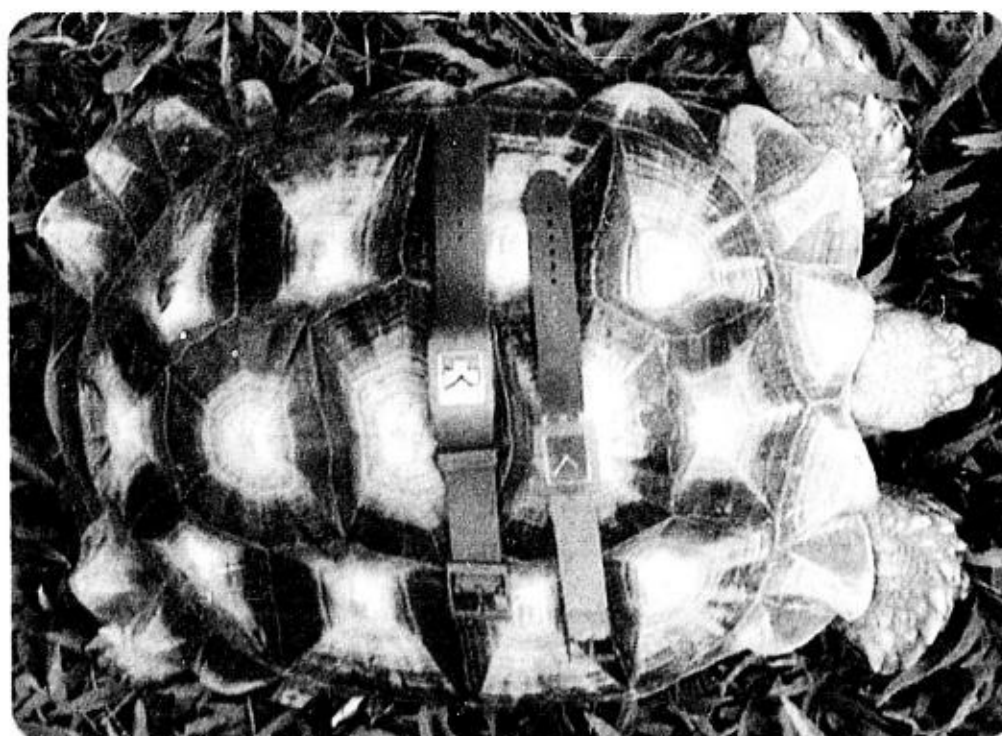
Name game ongoing at Gift Gate

THE KINDERZOO Name Game is ongoing at all Gift Gate stores. The KinderZoo needs names for all its animals. Bring the kids to see the animals live at the zoo or look at their pictures at any Gift Gate branch and give them all names. Submit the names they pick for the rabbits, potbellied pigs, guinea pigs, snakes, ring-neck chickens and lorry birds. Let them christen the flamingo, the tortoise, the parrot and the goat as well.

KinderZoo is open from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. every day. It is located within the Manila Zoo. Gift Gate has branches in nearly all malls in Metro Manila and major cities.



CALL this lorry bird something sweet or funny, whatever strikes you.



CHRISTEN this flamingo, and win a prize from Gift Gate.

TOSS a term of endearment toward this sulcata tortoise's way, shown here with Typical Square and Satisfaction Swatch watches.



DAVIDE (center) with ways and means committee chair Louie Klerulf, Batch '94 rep Bernadette Guevarra-Bernabe, scholarship committee chair Cora Tan, overseas alumni relations chair Rona Gregorio, fellowship chair Ivy Bautista, advocacy committee chair Chuki Miranda, UP CMCAA 2001 president Jingjing Romero, PRO Prof. Andy Sevilla, business manager Dr. Aleli Quirante, secretary Prof. Armi Santiago, VP-external Ambet Nabus, and CMCAA council of advisers Prof. Tessa Jazmines, Dean Ellen J. Paglinauan and Joy Buensalido



WITH UP Law student Omar Romero, Elena Villanueva, Juliet de los Reyes, Sandino Romero, UP CMCAA president Jingjing Romero and Dr. Oliver Romero

Chief Justice Davide inducts UP CMCAA

NO less than Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. led the induction rites for the 2001 officers of the UP College of Mass Communication Alumni Association (CMCAA). In simple ceremonies held at the UP CMC auditorium, Davide inducted alumni officers, committee chairs and the UP CMCAA council of advisers composed of Dean Ellen J. Paglinauan, Chancellor Tessa M. Jazmines and immediate CMCAA past president Joy Lumawig Buensalido.

Davide encouraged UP CMC alumni to continue to improve communications education and cited several alumni who work at the Supreme Court and even judiciary. He noted how communicators played a special role in the continuous mutual improvement of both fields.

"It is entirely up to you how you will enter into this partnership: as responsible watchdogs monitoring the work of the judiciary from the outside, or as staunch supporters sustaining judicial reform efforts from the inside," Davide said. "To me what matters in the end is the skill and expertise of communicators from no less than the University of the Philippines are utilized for the enhancement of the administration of justice."

Davide also congratulated the college for launching the Gloria D. Feliciano Scholarship Fund, in memory of the renowned communications scholar, founder of the Institute of Mass Communication and the college's first dean.

The UP CMCAA officers this year are Jingjing Romero, president; Susie Bugante, VP Internal; Ambet Nabus, VP External; Sochie Fernandez, AVP; Prof. Armi Santiago, secretary; Prof. Rose Feliciano, treasurer; Dr. Aleli Quirante, business manager; Rome Roquie, PRO, and Prof. Andy Sevilla, assistant PRO.

The UP CMCAA's first order of business was to host a Career Talk Day for the college's new graduates. Batch 2001 was oriented on viable careers in broadcast journalism, communication research, film and TV production, social marketing, advertising, the publishing business, corporate communications and government service by noted alumni in these fields.



WITH THE UP CMCAA council of advisers (from left) Joy Buensalido, Dean Ellen J. Paglinauan and Prof. Tessa Jazmines

Auditions for HK scholarships

THE BRITISH Council announces auditions for the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts on May 6, 5-8 p.m. at the Chameleon Dance Studio, 38 West Avenue, QC.

Susan Street, dean of the HKAPA, will conduct the auditions together with Tom Brown, associate dean. The school is in search of gifted young Filipinos specializing in ballet and modern dance. At stake is a one-year scholarship in pursuit of a professional diploma in the Performing Arts at the Academy's School of Dance. Call 914-1011 to 14.

TANG

SUMMER SNACK ATTACK!

Buy two 250g TANG packs get FREE 32.5g Oreo Save P6.00*	Buy two 500g TANG packs get FREE 75g Oreo Save P15.00*	Buy two 750g TANG packs get FREE 150g Oreo Save P25.00*	Buy two 1kg TANG packs get FREE 170g DoubleStuf Oreo Save P30.00*
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*Based on Oreo suggested retail price

For NON-BFAD permit no. 0086 series of 2001

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



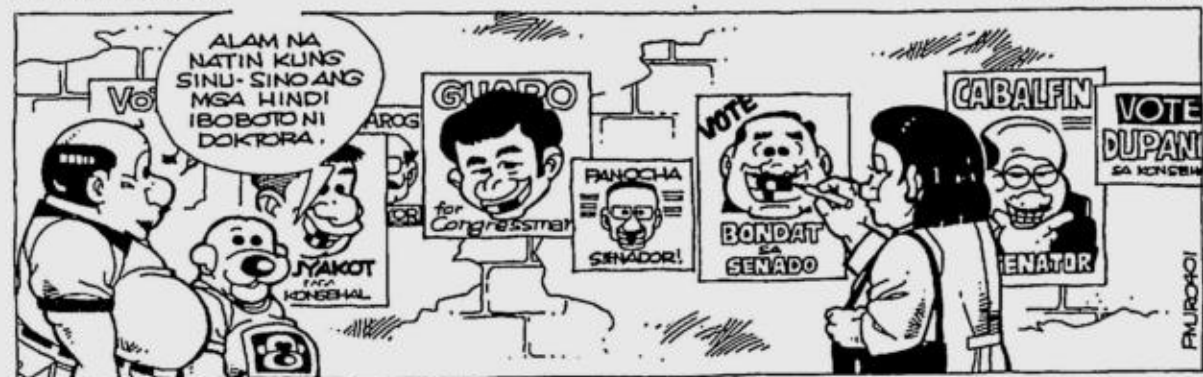
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



B1 GANG

BY ATS11/JEA/FEVG



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Glenn Ford, Rita Coolidge, Walter Susskind, Judy Collins, Jack Paar, Tim McGraw, Javier Bardem
Happy Birthday: Get with it and start looking at yourself as an asset instead of a liability. You will be the only one holding you back this year. Put your ideas on the table and ask for help to accomplish your goals. This is the time not to question your intentions, but to make things happen. Don't be afraid of changes. Welcome them and benefit. Your numbers: 9, 17, 22, 26, 30, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on yourself. You can make changes that will not only improve your looks but also raise your self-esteem and bring you needed confidence. It's time to start looking for that new position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The chance to talk with individuals who can help you achieve your goals is present. Sudden infatuations are likely to take place at events. Don't let a fling interfere with your advancement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Try not to be too dramatic, or your mate may take off without you for the day. You're creating your own trouble. Be a giver, not a taker. Your excessive nature is part of the problem.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can finish your work if you take it home with you. Your family may be disappointed if you don't have time for them. Organize your weekend well so that you can satisfy everyone.

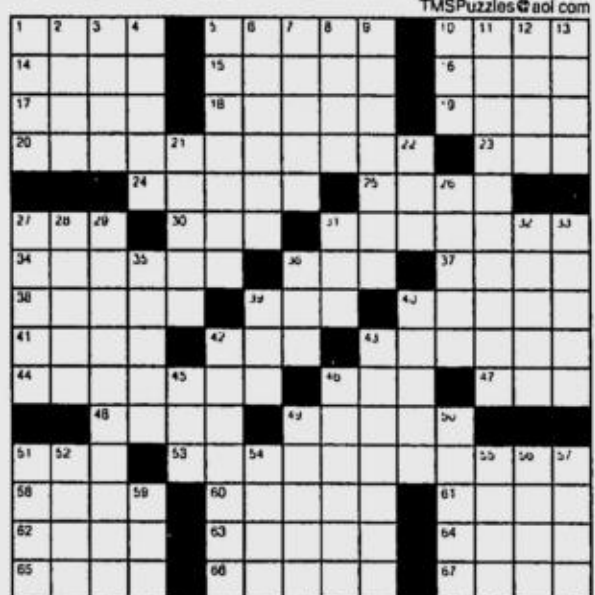
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Added responsibilities will be burdensome. You will have to try to get other relatives to pitch in. Your relationship may suffer if you have to give too much time to relatives.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's back to the drawing board. You will have second thoughts about your direction. Expand your knowledge and move into a more satisfying position.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

- ACROSS**
- Part of U.A.E.
 - Slight amount
 - Church recess
 - First balcony
 - Polish again
 - Pork cut
 - Nice to be?
 - Flooded
 - Duration
 - Bigger's sleuth
 - Confederate general
 - Window bases
 - Fitzzy ride
 - Unit of work
 - Writer Buntline
 - Stand and
 - Reticulated
 - Performed
 - Astronauts' grp.
 - Not sideways
 - Smoked salmon
 - Italian geothermal pioneer
 - Lively dance
 - First mate's agreement
 - Broad comedies
 - Car color
 - Followed
 - Repair a metal joint
 - Alrocraft surveillance acronym
 - Yelp from Flido
 - Chesterton's sleuth
 - Play division
 - Normandy town
 - "The Cloister and the Hearth" writer
 - Toledo's take
 - Distance measure
 - Gantry or Fudd
 - Metal containers
 - Model Macpherson
 - Snow-day rides
 - Tie tie
- DOWN**
- Actor Baldwin
 - Type of IRA



By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY

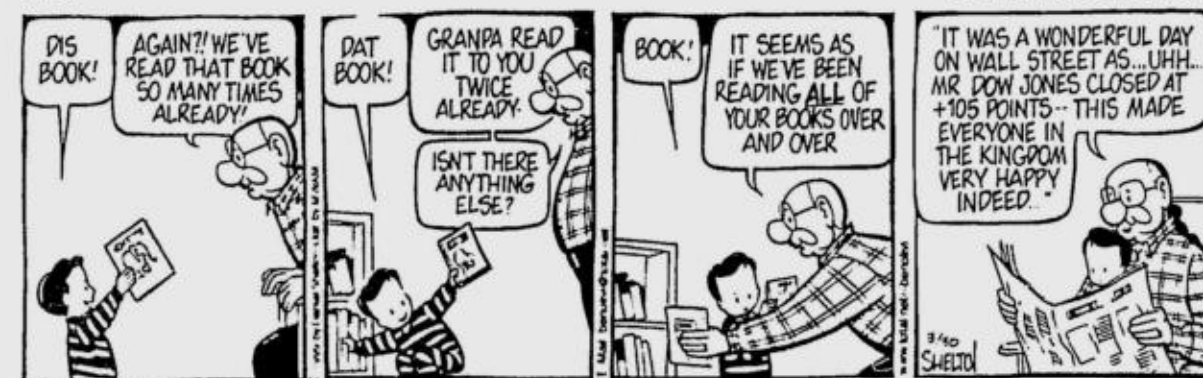
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|
| AWAIT | PABA | GOLF |
| LOUSE | ANON | ELIA |
| DOETH | WIST | TEES |
| ADO | TEN | CHEWOUT |
| IIEN | WHERE | |
| RECORDER | MILLET | |
| OVAL | EDGE | CLEAR |
| BAR | RARE | SAGA |
| ODETS | MARA | ONLY |
| TETHEH | CONDONES | |
| ELIPE | SUN | |
| HARMFUL | FOR | RUB |
| ASEA | TAKEMY | WIFE |
| STAY | ENID | EPCOT |
| HALO | SETS | AMASS |
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| 40 Chocolate alternative | 51 Zenith |
| 41 Reformer Dorothea | 52 Support bar |
| 42 Scorpio's brightest star | 53 Reaccount |
| 43 Mel and Jose | 54 Algerian port |
| 44 Big klutz | 55 Boozier |
| 45 Listened to | 56 Home in a hemlock |
| 46 Ignominy | 57 Born in France |

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



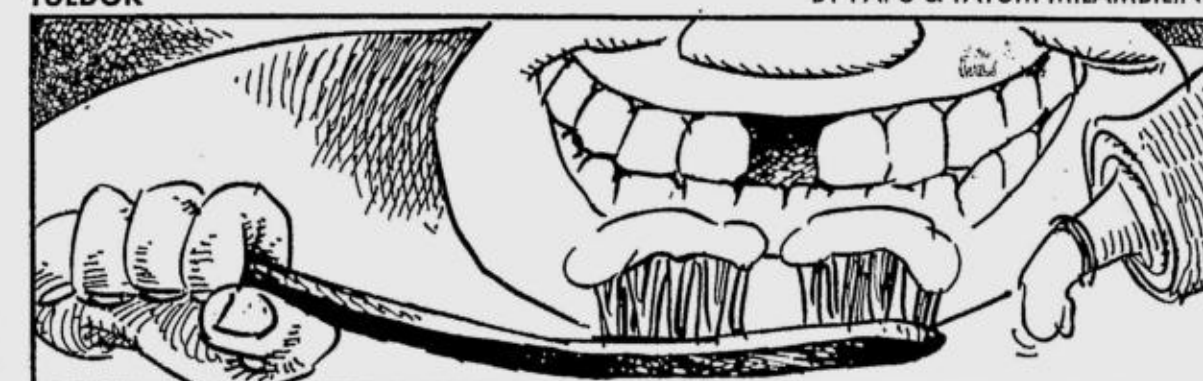
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Birthday Baby: You are colorful, engaging and certainly know how to put things together. You tend to change your mind a lot, but as long as you are open and honest, you will be able to follow through with your intentions.

Top celebrities sign up as product endorsers

MANSFIELD, maker of high quality men's underwear Hanford and Hartmann, has signed up top celebrities to endorse their products.

Cesar Montano, star of the highly acclaimed movie "Muro-Ami" and the television sitcom "Kaya Ni Mister, Kaya Ni Misis," will represent Hanford. Basketball hero Alex Compton, South Border lead vocalist Luke Mejares and screen vixen Patricia Javier are endorsing

Hartmann.

Get to see more of Cesar, Alex, Luke and Patricia as they participate in various activities.

Meanwhile, current Hanford endorser Carlos Agassi will be doing mall tours in Laguna and Cavite these coming weekends. He will also be at the "PBA Summer Time Out" until June.

Hartmann and Hanford are available in leading department stores.



SEXY actress Patricia Javier (right) agrees to endorsement terms with Roy Navarro sales manager of Mansfield, maker of Hartmann. At left is Izza of Real Concepts



DRAMA-ACTION star Cesar Montano signs up as product endorser of Hanford underwear. From left, Sahnee Capistrano, finance and accounting manager of Mansfield, maker of Hanford; Roy Navarro, Mansfield sales manager; Montano; and Norma Japitana, Montano's manager signing the agreement



CARLOS Agassi (third from left), current Hanford endorser, will be touring malls in Cavite and Laguna in the coming weekends.



BASKETBALL star Alex Compton (third from left) has signed a contract to endorse Hartmann men's undergarments.



ROY Navarro (left) shakes hands with Luke Mejares of South Border after the latter signed up as product endorser of Hartmann underwear. Others in photo are Cesar Buendia (third from left), PRO of South Border, and Teddy Perena of Team Ads.



Marathon run for the environment

NEW Balance, one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-performance shoes and apparel, recently sponsored the Pasig River Heritage Marathon as part of the company's social consciousness and concern for the environment.

The event was organized by the Clean and Green Foundation Inc.—Piso Para sa Pasig, Visions in Action, Gomburza, Archdiocese of Manila, Caritas-Manila, Sagip Pasig Movement, Riverwatch, React Phils. and Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

The 42-km competitive race was participated in by 3,000 professional runners, running enthusiasts and fitness buffs who all believe that the marathon is a timely and exciting cause to save one of the country's most precious landmarks.

The race aims to foster public

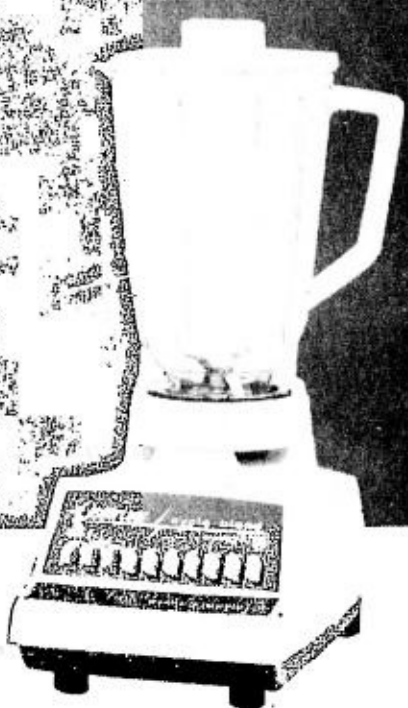
awareness on the sad plight of the Pasig River, particularly those people living near its banks, by stirring the public into joining and supporting the agencies and organizations that are trying to save and rehabilitate the river. Among the veteran runners who participated in the event included Ronald Despi, Reynaldo delos Reyes, Edgardo Pedregosa and Rey Antoque.

New Balance assistant product manager Beth Marcelo said, "We were very pleased to support this event. We hope to make a positive and lasting impact on the rehabilitation efforts to one of our country's legacies. New Balance looks forward to supporting similar noble causes in the future."

It is hoped that the marathon will bring about a change in people's attitudes in caring more for the Pasig River now and long after its rehabilitation is eventually completed.



FORMER First Lady Ming Ramos (seated, center) led the opening ceremony in the recently concluded Pasig River Heritage Marathon sponsored by New Balance.



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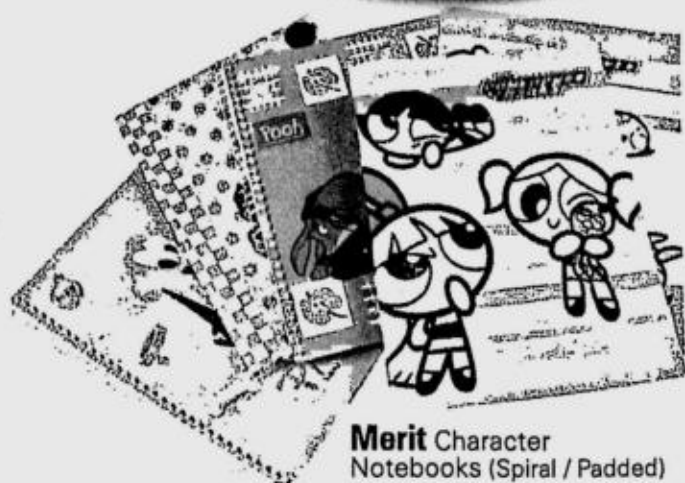


The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, only weapon we have is your support.

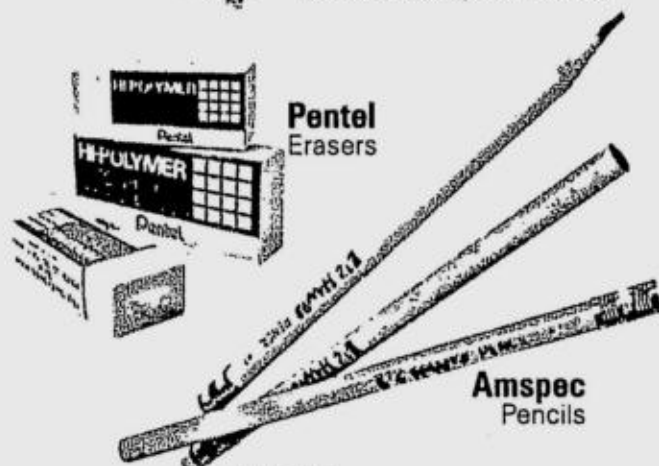
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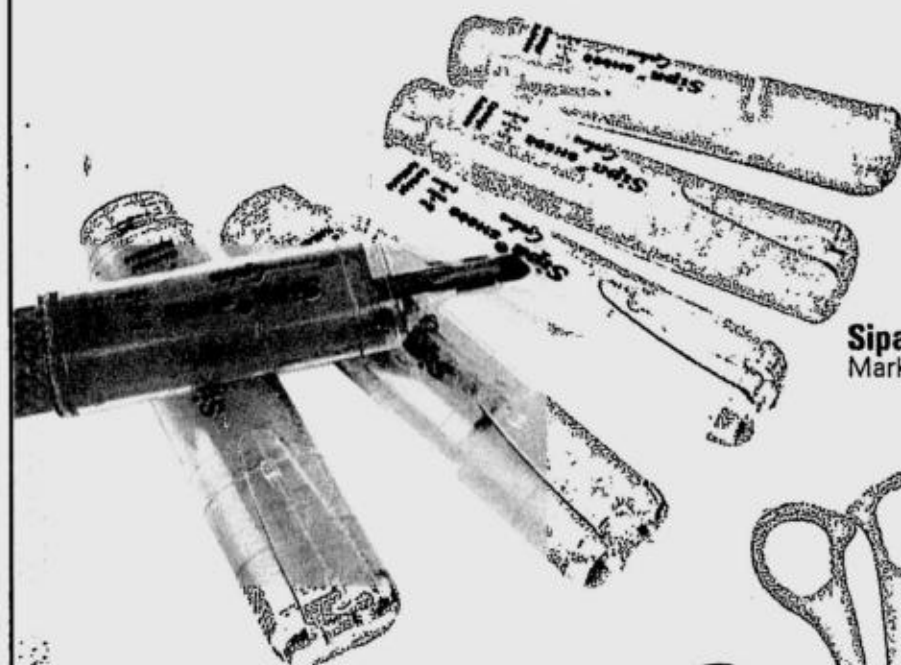


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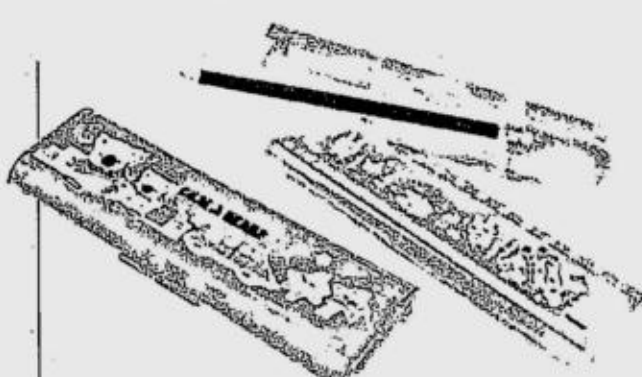


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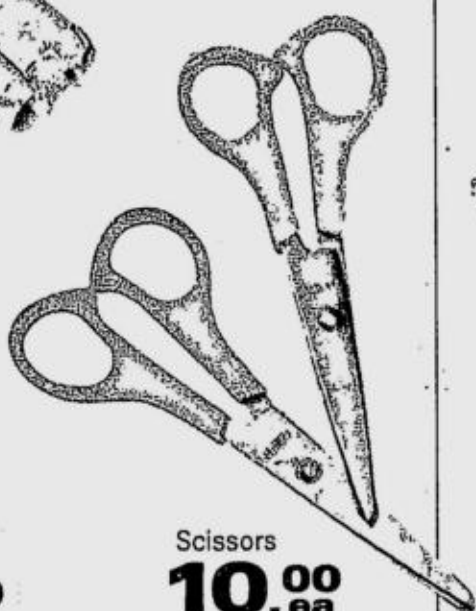
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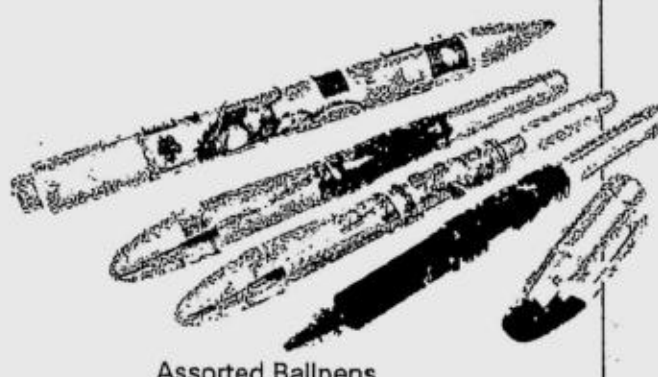
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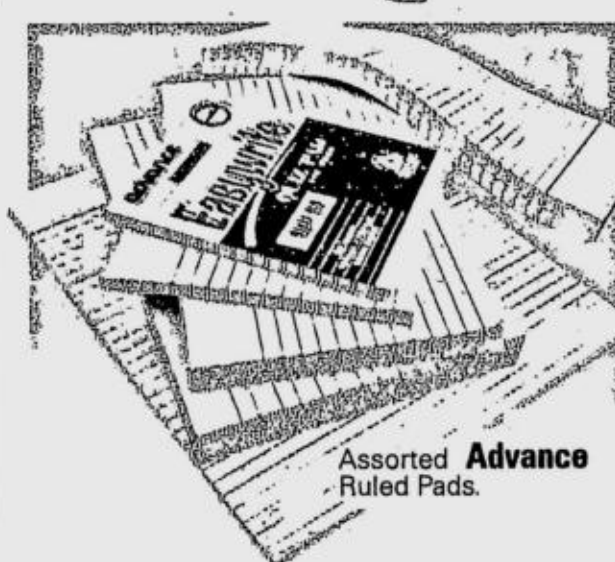


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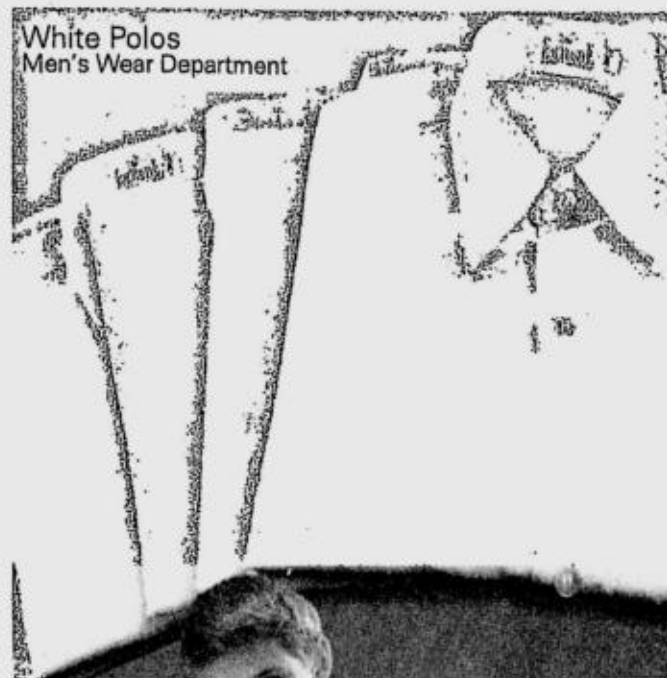
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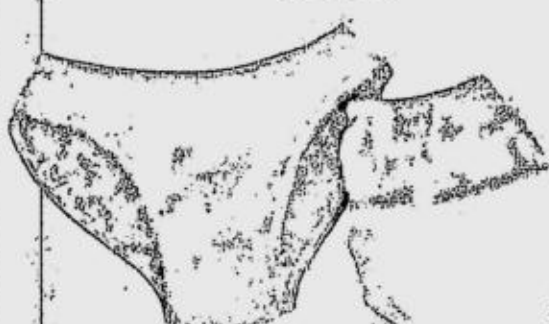
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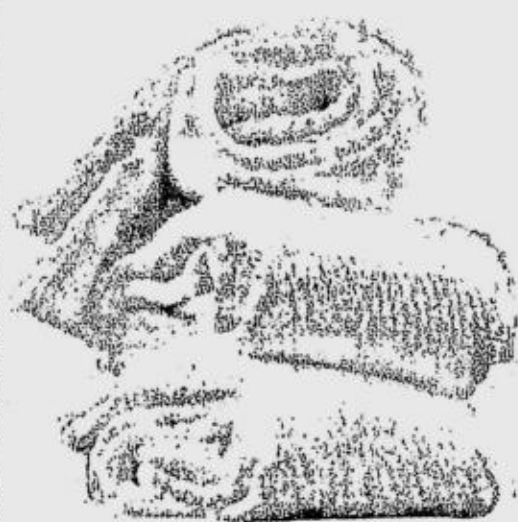
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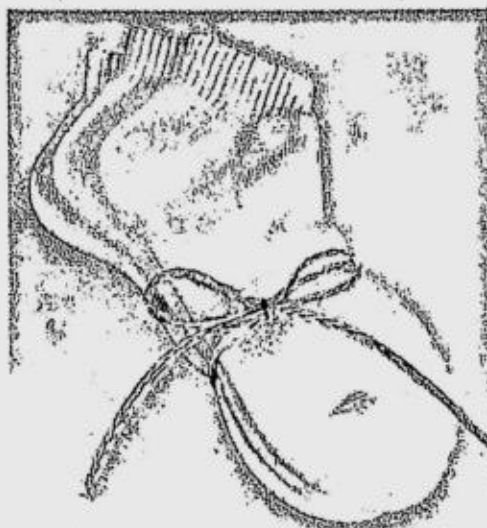
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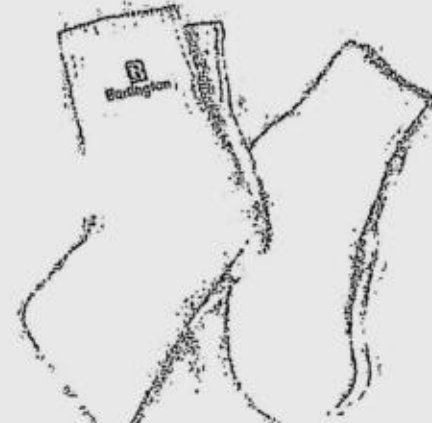
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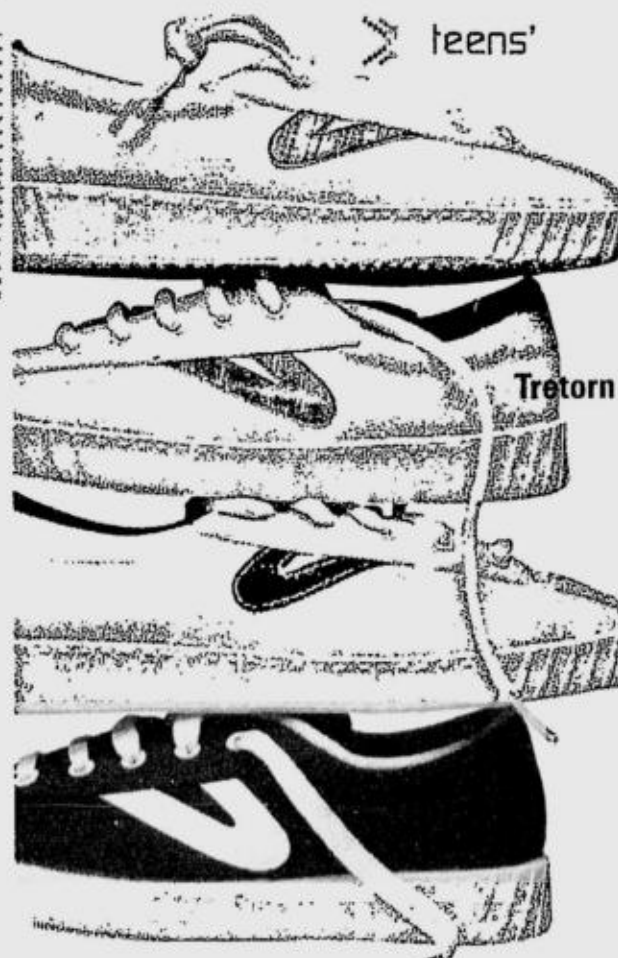


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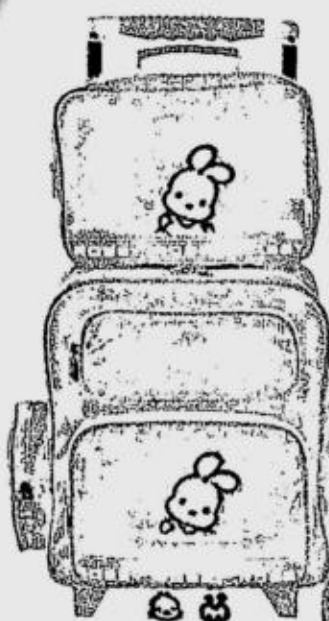
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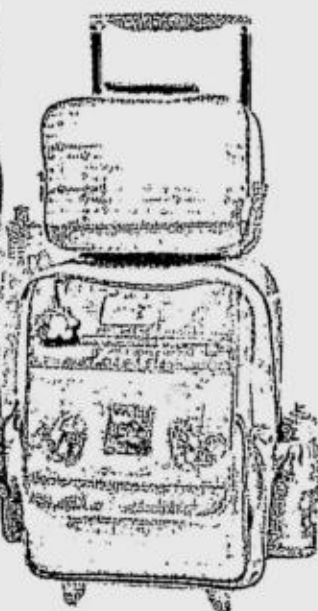
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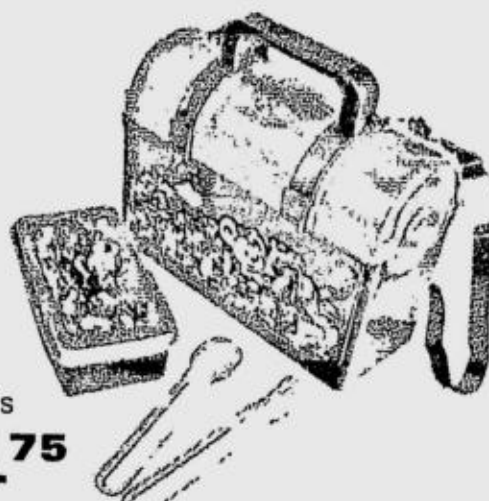
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